

Kopal Singh.

The Hindu — 64
Hindustan Times = 32
The Statesman = 10.

Select Documents.

Giani Kartar Singh's Statement
Regarding Partition Bill.

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EXTRACT FROM FILE OF "THE HINDU" 1947
TAKEN AT THE INSTANCE OF S. KIRPAL SINGH I/C
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KHALSA COLLEGE AMRITSAR.

JANUARY 12: SITUATION IN HAZARA.

DR. KHAN SAHIB'S REVIEW

NEW DELHI, Jan. 11: Dr. Khan Sahib, Premier of the N.W.F.P. made it clear today that the trouble in Hazara District was non-communal in character and was caused by men in search of loot. Dr. Khan Sahib added that the Pathans were not involved in it and that the Pathan areas were absolutely immune from trouble. He expressed his complete confidence that the disturbance would be brought under control by his Government.

So far as incidents in Oghi and Battal were concerned, he said, an attack was made by tribesmen and a number of casualties resulted including two Muslims killed. Firm action was taken against the tribesmen concerned. They had lost three men killed in the incident and they attempted to remove the dead bodies, but Doctor Khan Sahib gave orders to prevent it and to fire if necessary to enforce the orders.

A fine has been imposed on the tribesmen in the form of cash and rifles and some hostages for good behaviour. The time given to them for compliance with these conditions was due to expire to-morrow. If the tribesmen proved recalcitrant, retaliatory action would be taken against them, but, Dr. Khan Sahib, believed that ~~work~~ they would not precipitate an open clash with the Government.

The other trouble spot was in Maloch, where Sikh peasants, had been attacked by surrounding inhabitants. Some 25 people were reported to have been killed on both sides. The attack was a result of propaganda that land held by the Sikh peasantry could be taken. The same idea of easy acquisition of property lay behind attacks on other isolated villages and burning of houses but the Provincial Government had taken every step to rescue the people ~~and to take the necessary steps to~~

to rescue the people and orders have been given to impose the fine on offending inhabitants and other measures have been taken to make them feel the full rigour of law.

Dr. Khan Sahib deprecated the way in which the communal colour had been given to incidents which were really a-kin to border raids and incursions.

As regards the suspension of two officers, he made it clear that action against Dilwar Khan was taken on charges of corruptions and nothing else. Nawab Mubhub Ali had been suspended in connection with Pandit Nehru's visit to the Malakand Agency but there were also charges of corruptions against him following the findings of the Corruption Committee appointed to the Provincial Government in 1945. The suspension, Dr. Khan Sahib said, was preliminary to legal action.

MARCH 10: DISTURBANCES IN PUNJAB:

LAHORE, March 9: The Punjab Government issued the following communique at 10-15 p.m. on the situation in the province.

There were one or two stabbing cases last evening. The night, however, despite shouting, was reasonably quiet. Today, generally the town is quiet and the people are moving about and the shops opening.

The atmosphere in the railway area has also improved today. The outwards signs of arrangements made to give protection to the public and railway workers have had their effect. There has been considerable activity among political leaders of all communities and several meetings have taken place.

During the course of the day, there have been a few stabbing incidents reported.

In Amritsar, on the 8th, all main gates and street crossings were held by pickets and apart from some shots fired at looters or persons breaking the curfew, there was no happening of importance. Arrangements were made to round

Arrangements were made to round up Gaondas and out of 65 pulled in, 22 were found in possession of looted property. All reports indicated that there was more confidence in the city along with considerable anxiety about food supplies in the feeding of cattle. The knowledge that the British troops were operating in the city was having a very steadying effect. The city has been much damaged and there has been looting in practically every part. Arson and damage to telephone and electric wires have been very wide spread and many streets are blocked by fallen debris, the total casualties on the 8th were 88 dead and 149 injured.

The night of the 8th/9th passed without disturbance. The curfew was lifted at 10 o'clock this morning to enable the inhabitants of the city to purchase supplies and look after other matters of private interest. No incidents of any sort took place while the curfew was removed and every body had gone to their house 15 minutes before it was to go on again. Most people were able to draw ration and a large number of outsiders who had been caught in Amritsar when rioting broke out got to the railway station and were able to leave in special trains. In the outside district all was quiet at Taran Taran and other centre.

The situation in Rawalpindi city itself is under control, but in the surrounding areas things are not so satisfactory. People from Hazara district invaded the Murree Region and the bazars of Jhikka Gali, Ghora Gali and Lower Topa have been burnt. In Murree itself the old Brewer, View Fourth and an other hotel have been burnt to the ground. H.E. the Governor and Sir John Bennett Inspector General of Police visited Rawalpindi by a special plane this morning and returned shortly after 2 p.m. They reported that smoke was rising from about half a dozen villages but that the situation generally was being brought under control and troops were ~~out and in~~

troops were out and prepared to take the very strongest action against any body of men seen with arms or collected in parties of ~~more~~ more than five persons. All troops have been ~~ix~~ informed to shoot at sight on the slightest disobedience to orders.

While Multan city itself has remained quiet further reports have come in from the surrounding villages of attacks on Hindu property and looting of Hindu houses and shops. Two airborne battalions have been despatched to Multan and one of them has probably already arrived. They will go into action immediately in the surrounding districts and will give short shrift to looters or armed bands.

There are no reports of incidents in other district and it appears they are all quiet. It is learnt that an extra brigade of troops from Southern India will arrive in Lahore within the next day or so.

SITUATION IN LAHORE:

LAHORE, March 9: In view of the improvement in the situation in Lahore, the authorities have slightly relaxed restrictions on curfew hours in certain parts of the Civil Lines Area. Curfew hours in the Civil Lines Area from today till March 17 will be from mid-night to 7 a.m. ~~Thurs~~

The District Magistrate of Lahore issued an order today under Section 144 Criminal P.C. prohibiting the beating of a drum or tantom or vessel, ringing or striking a bell or gong, blowing a horn or trumpet, or sounding a loud speaker, instruments likewise within the limits of Lahore Corporation during the hours of curfew for a period of 8 days.

The order says that during the present disturbed conditions prevailing in Lahore, the beating of drums and the sounding of loud-speaker and other instruments at night causes panic and endangers public tranquillity.

The order will not however apply to the use of such instruments at any place of worship in the usual manner for purposes of religious worship.

The police have started rounding up goonda elements in the city today. So far sixteen arrests have been made. Only four stabbing incidents were reported today — Three of which took place in the walled city and one in Dharampur.

DR. KITCHLEW INJURED:

LAHORE, March 9. Dr. Saidudding Kitchlew, President of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee, is reported to have been injured during the disturbances in Multan early this week. He sustained injuries on chest and hands. He is now progressing.

Dr. Kitchlew went to Multan on March 2 to appear as a defence witness in a murder case.

Sardar Swaran Singh, Leader of the Panthic Party in the Punjab Assembly and former Minister for Development, visited a large part of the city today. He impressed upon the inhabitants to maintain peace and tranquility.

Earlier,, Sardar Swaran Singh, accompanied by Diwan Bahadur S.P. Singha Speaker of the Punjab Assembly, visited the Mayo Hospital, where they spent about an hour enquiring about the condition of the injured persons.

Diwan Bahadur Singha also visited the affected areas in the city along with Mr. C.E. Gibbon and Mr. Brijlal and appealed to the people to maintain peace.

Agha Shorish Kashmiri, General Secretary of the All-India Majilis Ahrar, has appealed to every citizen of the Punjab to remain quiet and calm and to exercise restraint.

The Red-shirt volunteers of Majilis-i-Ahrar rescued about 500 families during the disturbances and gave shelter to many people in the Ahrar office.

They also let about 4,000 passengers from the Lahore Railway Station to their homes.

A joint appeal to the leaders of all parties and communities in the Punjab to devise immediately effective ways and means for the promotion of communal harmony and concerned in the province is made by the councillors of the Lahore Corporation at a meeting held in the Town Hall today. Mian Amir Ud Din, Mayor of Lahore, presided.

LEAGUE LEADERS CALL TO MUSLIMS.

GUJARAT, March 9. A largely attended public meeting was addressed here last evening by Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Health Member in the Interim Government. The audience included Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims. Mr. Abdul Ghafoor, President of the District Muslim League, presided.

Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan emphasised the need for maintaining peace in the Punjab and congratulated Gujarat on having preserved an atmosphere of inter-communal goodwill and harmony and on having organised a joint public meeting thereby setting an example for other districts. It was the responsibility of the Muslims who formed an overwhelming majority in Gujarat to protect the minorities, he declared. He also urged the minorities to have faith in the majority community.

The Health Member deplored the violent demonstrations which, he said, had been instigated by certain people in order to obstruct the formation of a representative Ministry in the Province. No political problem could be solved and no party could gain any advantage by these methods, he said. He hoped that leaders of all communities would join hands in restoring amicable relations. A local Congress leader also addressed the meeting.

MARCH 11. POLICE OPEN FIRE IN AMRITSAR SUBURB.

AMRITSAR, March 10. An engagement between warring elements at Sharitpura a suburb of Amritsar, was averted by the military opening fire on a crowd of about 100 people this morning, four of whom were killed.

About 80 members of the two communities had taken up their positions for a fight, when the troops arrived at the scene and dispersed them. The police carried out a search for arms and discovered 20 spears.

The trouble has spread to Fatehjung, Hassanabdal and Campbellpur, places about 20 miles from Rawalpindi, it is learnt in Lahore.

A Government spokesman described the conditions in Multan and Amritsar districts as still disturbed, but reported the situation in the rest of the province generally as easier.

In Murree, the Government spokesman said, widespread arsons were pre-planned.

DISTURBANCES IN RAWALPINDI AREA.

LAHORE, March 10. His Excellency the Governor of the Punjab flew to Multan today to study the communal situation. Disturbance broke out yesterday in Sadar Bazar in Rawalpindi Cantonment, said a passenger, who arrived in Lahore this evening.

Curfew has been imposed from 3.30 p.m. to 6 a.m.

So far 200 have been reported to have been killed and 400 injured in the communal clashes in the Rawalpindi District, according to unofficial estimates.

Thirty-seven dead bodies belonging to one community were disposed off during the last two days by the municipal authorities.

The passenger added that military had been patrolling the city and also rushed to some effected rural areas.

Reports received show that half a dozen villages around Rawalpindi were burnt and many more were affected.

MARCH 12. PUNJAB RIOTS PLANNED
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT)

NEW DELHI, March 11. As both houses of the Central Legislature were sitting today, in the lobbies, the main points of interest were two; Will the Select Committee on the taxation proposals ^{make} any alteration in order to reduce the burden on industry, and secondly, what will happen in the Punjab?

With order being gradually established in the main city of the province, the first instinct is naturally to estimate the losses. At least Rs. 20 to 25 crores worth of property have been destroyed, according to reports of men who have come back to Delhi after a survey of the situation, and several hundred lives have been lost.

According to incendiarism which come from the Punjab suggest careful planning. So was the all most simultaneous outburst of mob fury over such widely separated cities as Amritsar, Multan and Rawalpindi. These manifestations of savagery are the Punjab's reply to Bihar; but they are more than a mere payment of old scores. They are intended to be a move for the capture of power and authority in the North Western Zones of Pakistan. The price of victory has, however, been heavy for the Muslim League. The original intention of the planners of the direct action campaign was to capture the Ministry, then to secure a general election after the dissolution of the Legislature, and at last to establish a stable League Government in the Punjab, and in brief repeat the recent victory of Sind. Had that been unfolded according to original design, the

the drama would have been enacted all over again at Peshawar. But the Sikhs and the Hindus of the Punjab have come together in the hour of sorrow and adversity. It is astonishing how men of all classes and all groups have determined to face the drastic solution of partition. Recent events in the province have convinced them that the officials and the police cannot guarantee their safety under existing circumstances. They feel convinced they must part company with the Muslims and seek a division into Muslim and non-Muslim Areas. Dawn is frankly taken back by the suddenness and the wide-spread character of the moment.

Sardar Baldev Singh's present tour of the Punjab is intended to rally all Sikhs elements in favour of a partition. When Pandit Nehru starts conversations with the League, as hopes to do very shortly, they will be on the bases of a divided Punjab and a divided Bengal.

The Punjab's tragedy has thus clarified issues in a remarkable manner Congress attitude seems to be. Let us make a start with a many provinces or part of provinces as will hold together; also with such of the States as are prepared to go forward simultaneously, a move will be initiated to expedite the work of the Constituent Assembly and work a time-table so that the new Constitution may be ready well before the end of the year.

"TIMES" CRITICISM OF LEAGUE POLICY.

LONDON, March 11. Commenting on the Punjab situation, the London Times, in an editorial, says: "Arson and massacre, which have led all law-abiding citizens of the Punjab to welcome the intervention of British troops, provide a terrible warning of the dangers to public order inseparable from any attempt to enforce a communal dictatorship by unconstitutional agitation."

The paper adds: "The danger is in no way lessened if the agitation claims to be based upon democratic principles. It is a

It is a curious feature of the campaign conducted in the Punjab by the Muslim League that a 56 per cent. Muslim majority in the province enables it to invoke these principles while it fiercely controverts them in other parts of India."

Pointing out that no Muslim party can form a Ministry unless it secured Sikh or Hindu support, the Times continues: "The balance of forces in the Punjab raises in acute form the whole majority-minority problem in India. The Sikhs complain with justice that the Muslim League seeks to deny to them in the Punjab a position, which it claims in the rest of India for the Muslim community."

"The working Committee of the Congress Party reaffirmed last week its acceptance of the Cabinet Mission's plan and of the interpretation placed upon it by the British Government on December 6, but an under-current of uneasiness is bound to remain until the Muslim League gives some assurance that Muslim voting power in the constituent groups will not be employed to prejudice Sikhs in the Punjab or the Hindus in Assam. If this assurance were forthcoming, the League might well receive such support in the Punjab Legislature as would enable it to form a Coalition Ministry. Certainly, the present attempt to seize power in the Punjab by thinly disguised force can only bring disaster.

CONGRESS EFFORTS PRAISED

"The efforts of the Congress Party to bring the two major communities together deserve recognition. The resolutions of the Working Committee were inspired by the same constructive spirit as Pandit Nehru's declaration of February 22".

Expressing strong hope that the League would accept the invitation to send representatives to discuss the ~~situation~~

the situation arising out of the British decision to transfer power by June 1946, and to join in the "historic task" of framing a Constitution on the basis of free consent, the Times continues: "The present uneasy Coalition at the Centre must become a real Cabinet if it is to assume the functions and powers which Britain is ready to make over in preparation for the final transfer of power and it would be for the advantage of India if such a Joint Cabinet could remain in office by agreement between the parties until the Constituent Assembly has provided a new policy. An arrangement of this kind would provide the necessary continuity between the present and the future and would enable power to be quickly and smoothly transferred both to the services and to provincial administrations. In effect, it would function as a Dominion Government. But the time is short.

"At the Centre as in the Punjab, leaders of the Muslim League have a great opportunity, they can secure their legitimate aims by amicable negotiation. If they persist in resorting to un-constitutional methods, they will involve both their community and their country in ruin," the Times concludes. — Reuter.

MARCH 13. SIKH LEADER SUCCUMS TO INJURIES

Babu Labh Singh, former President of the Shromni Akali Dal who was seriously injured during the communal disturbances here died in hospital yesterday.

Communal disturbances in Jullundur have so far claimed a total of 23 lives, the A.P.I. was officially informed today. Thirty-five persons were seriously injured. Most of the dead and injured were victims of stray assaults.

ARMED MEN RAID MIANWALI

MIANWALI, March 11. About ten thousand persons equipped with arms attempted to raid the town this

to raid the town this morning. The raiders surrounded the town. The District Magistrate, however, tactfully handled the situation with the help of the local Pathans and officials. No loss of life or property is reported. Panic, however prevails.

March 14. REFUGEES' STORIES.

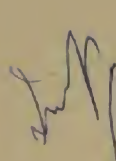
RAWALPINDI? March 12. An Associated Press of America Staff Correspondent, who accompanied the Defence Minister, Sardar Baldev Singh, on a 25-minute of reconnaissance of the riot-torn areas in the Punjab, writes:

in a flight over the countryside surrounding Rawalpindi, I saw 14 villages ablaze from fires started by raiders. We at times flew low enough to see red flames roaring across doorways and men hurrying away with bundles.

The Defence Minister said more tanks, armoured cars and troops are moving into Rawalpindi area.

We visited refugee camps in the Cantonment area where some 5,000 Sikhs and Hindus, men, women and children had taken shelter. Sardar Baldev Singh heard half a dozen weeping Sikh refugees say they had been forcibly converted to Islam, their haircut and their beards trimmed to Muslim "goatees". One refugee said many had been killed and womenfolk abducted.

The Commander-in-Chief of North West Army, Lt.-Gen. Sir Frank Messervy, said to an interview, "Whatever troops go they meet refugees and this is a great problem." More refugees were reported to be coming under military escort.

 Sardar Baldev Singh said in an interview, "What I have been today puts into the shade the horrors and ~~the~~ massacres of Noakhali in Eastern Bengal. It is far far worse than any rumours we had heard." "Force is no solution of our political problems," he declared and asked Muslim leaders "if they are honest and well-meaning" to come to these areas.

TRIBUTE TO LATE BABU LABH SINGH

JULLUNDUR, March 12. Glowing tributes were paid to the services of Babu Labh Singh, former President of the Shiromni Akali Dal who was seriously injured during the communal disturbances here and died in hospital yesterday.

Master Tara Singh, the veteran Akali Leader, said that his death at this critical juncture was an irreparable loss to the Sikh community.

Giani Kartar Singh, the ~~former~~ President of the Shiromani Akali Dal, said that in the passing away of Babu Labh Singh, the Sikh community had lost an honest person who was a pillar of strenght to the community in the Doaba.

Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Member in the Interim Government, said, "Those who had met Babu Labh Singh would not forget his honest, straight-forward and serene personality. He successfully guided the destiny of the Sikh community during the last fateful years as President of the Shiromani Akali Dal."

Sardar Swaran Singh, leader of the Panthic Party in the Punjab Assembly, said, "the death of Babu Labh Singh is mourned by the entire Sikh Community. He had a record of supreme sacrifice for the cause of the community and the country and he died in harness for the cause."

MARCH 15: RAIDERS CLASH WITH MILITARY.

LAHORE, March 14. There was a tow-hour battle between the police and military on one side and the raiders from across the Indus on the other at Jand in Tahsil Pindigheb. District Campbellpur. Four raiders were killed. The situation in the jurisdiction of the police stations, Chauntra, Fateh Jung, Pindigheb and Pind Sultani is reported to be exceedingly serious, says an official announcement this evening.

Reports have been received of riot, arson and murders from villages in the Chakwal Tehsil, District Jhelum, Dudial was attacked by a mob of 2,500 and although the military and police stationed there exchanged hot fire with the looters, they were unable to save the village from being burnt. They were, however, able to evacuate most of the people.

In Attock, reports of looting and arson are still being received in the district headquarters.

All has been quiet in Jullundur, Ferozepore, Kangra Sheikhpura and Gurdaspur.

Amritsar continued to be quiet and there has been no further incidents of any importance. There is still considerable nervousness in the city and also in the rural part of the district.

All districts in the Ambala Division report no incidents and the situation is quiet everywhere, the announcement says.

Founding up the riot situation in the Punjab a spokesman of the Punjab Government says: "It is quite clear from ~~all~~ reports from all over the affected district that these disgraceful scenes are due entirely to completely rumours spread deliberately by mischief mongers and bad characters. The favourite method appears to be to spread a rumour that a religious building of one community or the other has been attacked or burnt.

DESTRUCTION IN MULTAN.

LAHORE, March 13.

Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Member in the Interim Government, said today he was "Satisfied with the arrangements to cope with the situation" in Multan, following a visit to that district.

Multan city itself, where 200 deaths have been officially reported since rioting broke out there on March 6, has been "quiet" during the past several days, the Deputy Commissioner of the district said. He also

He also said that 750 houses and shops had been destroyed in the city and 50 persons had been killed in the rural areas so far.

A "big engagement" last night between rioters and troops at Matotola, 35 miles from Multan, was reported, but casualties were not known.

A district police official listed 19 killed at Trigar 22 miles from Multan, on March 9. In Multan town, he said, 13 Gurdwaras, eight temples and one mosque were burnt in the rioting, adding, "almost all the killing and burning in the town took place on the very first day of the trouble although arson and looting occurred on March 6".

Another police official said that though coming of troops had a salutary effect, the trouble might spread, adding, however, "it certainly will not spread with the speed with which it began."

MARCH 18: PANDIT NEHRU MEETS PRESSMEN.

LAHORE, March 17. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President in the Interim Government, addressing a Press Conference in Lahore, on the conclusion of his three-day tour of the riot-affected areas in the Punjab, said: "I have seen ghastly sights and I have heard of behaving by human beings which would degrade brutes. The first thing to be done is to put an end to every kind of disorderly action. The second thing is to protect and rescue people who may be threatened or are in danger. More especially, the women who have been abducted or moved by force should be brought back to their homes. Then other problems like the care of refugees and rehabilitation will have to be tackled."

"I think that the present disturbances will be completely ended within a very few days." Pandit Nehru added: "So far as I have been able to see, the military are acting efficiently and with rapidity. There is never any room for panic whatever happens, much less today

much less to-day when the situation is more or less under control. The man who is panicky is a useless citizen and a danger to others.

"Obviously, all that has had happened is immediately connected with political affairs. I purpose to say nothing about ^{that} aspect except this, that if politics are to be conducted in this way, then they cease to be politics and become some kind of jungle warfare which reduces human inhabitations to the state of a desert. If there is a grain of intelligence in any person, he must realize that whatever political objectives he may aim at this is not the way to attain it. Any such attempt must bring as it has in a measure brought already, ruin and destruction.

The A.P.A. adds:

In a brief interview immediately after his return to New Delhi by air Pandit Nehru, adding to the statement he had made earlier in the day at Lahore said that "more stringent regulations" would be imposed in the Punjab than employed so far.

Pandit Nehru said that the damage caused was greatest in Amritsar, adding that perhaps ten per cent. of the city had been destroyed. "It resembled that the damage caused in Monghry during the Bihar earthquake," he said, ~~that~~ "but the smouldering ruins look worse than that earthquake."

Pandit Nehru said: "India will go on to her destined end of Independence and nothing that has happened is going to stop this."

PASSENGER TRAIN LOOTED

LAHORE? March 17. Seven decoits stopped a passenger train between Shaid and Bandain Railway Stations on the Kundian Line in Mianwali District and looted the train says an official announcement this evening. The situation in Khushab and the Soan Valley, in Shahpur District still remains tense. A case of attempted arson has been reported from villages Khud in police station Khushab and re-inforcement have been sent there adds the announcements.

In Attock District, Pindigheb and Fatehjung Tehsils are still seriously disturbed and reports of looting, arson and casualties are still being received from different villages all over these two tehsils. The military dispersed a crowd with fire which had assembled to attack Achwal in tehsil Fatehjung in Shahpur district.

Trouble still persists in the Kahuta tehsil of Rawalpindi district and the Deputy Inspector General of Police is personally dealing with conditions there.

All districts of the Ambala Division remain peaceful. Jullundur, Kangra, Hoshiarpur and Ferozepur are all quiet, Amritsar continues quiet. The night in Lahore was perfectly quiet and this morning the town presents a perfectly normal appearance.

MARCH 20: ~~Ghaznifar~~ ALI'S CALL TO MUSLIMS

JHELUM, March 18: The murders and arson committed by rioters in various villages of Rawalpindi Division were condemned in a strong language by the hon. Mr. Ghaznifar Ali Khan, Health Member in the Interim Govt., addressing a public meeting here last evening under the auspicious of the Jhelum District Peace Committee. If any Muslim, Mr. Ghaznifar Ali Khan said had committed these heinous crimes under the impression that he was doing a service to Islam or advancing the cause of the Muslim League or of Pakistan he should understand that he had actually done the greatest disservice to all these. Such Muslims had brought shame to their community and their leaders and on the Punjab. It was the duty of the Muslim League workers, to strain every nerve to restore confidence in the minds of the minorities, to defend their non-Muslim neighbours against aggressors and wash, if necessary with their own blood and tears of remorse, the memory of that had happened.

MARCH 24: MILITARY AID IN PUNJAB.

RAWALPINDI March 23: Over eighteen thousands Indian troops, two thousand Britain troops and about two thousand of the Air Force have been employed in suppressing the communal strife in the Punjab says the communique issued by the Northern Command today.

In addition a number of G.T. Companies have been fully employed in evacuating the people from the riot stricken areas to the refugee camps where they are afforded protections, food and medical assistance until the civil authorities are able to take charge of them, added the communique.

The communique continues, "Alarmist news and rumours are counter-acted by a daily news sheet in Hindustani which is dropped in the disturbed areas from the air.

The first request for military aid was made in Lahore and Amritsar on March 5 when one company of Second Punjab was sent to Amritsar and two companies were employed in Lahore. Apprehending more trouble two battalions of 23rd British Brigade were sent to Amritsar and one battalion was ordered to Lahore. As a result of arrival of these troops and their vigorous patrolling in the affected areas confidence was restored and by 8th of March the situation was fast returning to normal.

PARATROOPS FOR MULTAN.

In Multan two companies were called out on March 5 and following an urgent request for re-inforcements on the night of March 6 and 9 a parachute battalion from Chaklala was flown there by air. Later a para brigade of Second Airborne Division less one battalion was sent to Multan by air and rail. These troops immediately started patrolling in rural areas and by March 15 they had the situation under control.

The acute tension prevailing in ~~Rawalpindi~~ Ambala and adjacent areas was eased by a parachute brigade, one battalion of which was flown there on March 15.

In Rawalpindi area military assistance was asked for on March 13 when two companies were sent to the city. As the disturbances spread to the rural areas the city was cordoned off. Troops in the ~~Rawalpindi~~ Murree were re-inforced and a battalion was sent to Gujarkhan. The Brigade at Campbellpur was employed in patrolling the affected area there.

On March 11 as the trouble was still spreading in the rural areas of Rawalpindi and Attock districts a re-grouping of the army to cover the whole-area was ordered. The Seventh Indian Division was entrusted with the task of restoring order. Six brigade areas were formed each under separate Commander at Rawalpindi, Murree, Campbellpur, Mianwali, Pindigheb and Talagang and a mobile force of British infantry tanks and armoured cars which operate between Pindigheb and Gujarkhan areas by carrying out intensive patrolling evacuating refugees and dispersing crowds. These troops are bringing the situation under control although a good deal of tension and apprehension still remains. There are signs that people are regaining confidence and some places, are beginning to resume normal life but strict vigilance is still necessary and patrolling by troops in rural areas continues."

MARCH 26.

CROWD DISPERSED IN MIRPUR

A Frontier Government communique to-night says: His Excellency the Governor visited Mansehra and Shinkiani in Hazara district yesterday. When His Excellency was returning to Abbottabad in the evening about 300 persons gathered near the Remount Depot, Mirpur, four miles North-West of Abbottabad. His Excellency's car passed through without incident. Afterwards, the ^{Superintendent} ~~Superintendent~~

the Superintendent of Police who reached the place with a police party, ordered the crowd to disperse, but they threw stones at the police. The police had to resort to lathi-charge and also fired three rounds to disperse the crowd. The casualties reported are: 10 constables and ^{persons} 1 in the demonstration were injured.

ENQUIRY INTO HAZARA RIOT TO BE HELD

It is understood that the Frontier Government have decided to hold an official enquiry into the incidents in Mansehra in Hazara district which took place last Friday.

At Mansehra, the 24-hour curfew was relaxed at 8 a.m. yesterday. Twenty-one persons have been arrested in connection with the incidents on Friday. According to details now available, 5 Hindus were killed and 2 are reported to be missing. Fire destroyed 4 houses ; 7 places of worship and 136 shops including 32 belonging to the Muslims. At Shinkhari, one place of worship was burnt out on the night of the 22nd March.____U.P.I.

MARCH 25: ATROCITIES IN MULTAN VILLAGE

A report of how 140 out of 150 houses of Hindus in the village of Taragar were reduced to ashes by rioters during the disturbances, has been received from Multan.

The report states that on the night of March 9 about 2 a.m. the Chowkidar of the village informed Chaudhury Hardyal, ~~who is the owner of the village~~ a land-lord of the town, that a mob had gathered near a canal bridge just out of the village. Choudhri Hardyal, along with the Chowkidare and another Hindu, went to the spot to find out as to what the matter was.

Choudhri Hardyal was killed by the mob which entered the village from the eastern side and started setting it on fire. The raiders continued the attack

continued the attack till about 12 noon after which they left the village. A military force arrived there at about 1 p.m. but by that time, 140 out of 150 houses had been burnt, 24 persons were killed and one seriously injured. A number of animals including horses, cows, buffaloes, and camels had been roasted alive. Three women were also abducted but they were later rescued.

The refugees there are being looked after by a Jat family—the biggest landlords of the village.

MARCH 27: ARMY'S HELP IN PUNJAB

NEW DELHI, March 25. On the eve of his departure from India, Field Marshal Wavell, in a letter addressed to Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, congratulated those concerned for the excellent work done by the Army in establishing control in the Punjab.

Forwarding Lord Wavell's letter, Sir Claude Auchinleck, in a personal communication to Lt.-Gen. Sir Frank Messervy of the Northern Command, added: "I have the greatest admiration for the resolute and impartial way in which the troops under your command carried out their duties in the most difficult and trying conditions. They have deserved well of this country. I thank you personally and your area and other subordinate commanders for the efficiency and judgment with which a most complicated and delicate situation has been handled."

APRIL 13: INCIDENT IN LAHORE

Lahore, April 11. A case of stabbing which proved fatal was reported just after 10 a.m. on Thursday from Sitla Mandir areas. It is believed that the victim was the Chowkidar of the Mandir.

Two persons who were travelling in a tonga stopped their vehicle in front of the Mandir and engaged themselves in talk with two persons sitting al-

sitting already there. Soon after the talks were over, the tonga with one passenger and the other two persons disappeared from the scene and the second passenger went behind the victim and stabbed him in the abdomen.

The victim died on the way to hospital.

COMMUNAL RIOTS.

(FROM OUR CO RESPONDENT)

NEW DELHI , April 11: First-hand accounts of recent happenings in the Punjab from officials who have toured extensively throughout that province do not sound reassuring. There is a peace of sort , particularly at centres where troops are stationed, how long it will last is the anxious question which all are asking. Refugees from north-western regions of the Punjab are still pouring into Lahore and other main cities, having lost everything they could call their own. Large-scale relief operations must continue for a considerable time and the precise extent of the ~~mutual~~ change caused, whether to life or property, will be extremely difficult to estimate. The time for harvesting the standing wheat crop is rapidly approaching in these devastated areas-where it has not been destroyed by mob fury. Much difficulty is bound to be experienced in securing labour for the purpose. Gurgaon, which was the latest victim of mass destruction, including arson, looting and murder, is comparatively a small district adjoining New Delhi. Gurgaon has a European Deputy Commissioner.

Yesterday, Dr. Khan Sahib the Frontier Premier, made a revealing statement in a Pathan village near Pesahwar: "Mr. Churchill's friends are working behind scenes. Mr. Churchill and his party, which has more followers in India than in England are against the present British Government's decision to hand over power to India. In the Muslim League they have found

they have found their best tool to further their ends." More forcefully and more specifically, Dr. Khan Sahib is believed to have told the authorities as to whom he means by the expression Churchill's followers in India. The Viceroy is not likely to ignore Dr. Khan Sahib's complaint - supported, it is stated, by authentic evidence- when the Conference of Provincial^s Governors takes place next week.

Sir Olaf Caroe has never even attempted to conceal his strong anti-pathies towards the Congress. He disapproved of Pandit Nehru's visit to the Frontier Province last October. Law and order are not being observed in large areas either because there is not sufficient determination from above to enforce it, or because the police and the sub-ordinates executive have too many links with the party seeking to overthrow the existing Government by direct action or violence to give primary consideration to their official duties. Reports of indifference of varying degrees, of in-subordination on critical occasions have been too numerous from the Punjab and beyond to be ignored as near rumour. The British Govt. and the people may have decided to transfer power next year. Will Lord Mountbatten be able to impress it on all officials high and low that either they must honestly carryout this policy or must disappear without delay? That is the crucial issue today.

APRIL 19 "SERIOUS SITUATION IN TANK TOWN."

PESHAWAR, April 18. The Frontier Government issued the following communique at 9-45 p.m. this evening on the situation in the province:

Disturbances continued in D.I. Khan District. The situation is serious in the town of Tank where upto mid-day today troops had inflicted over 30 casualties in enforcing the curfew. Looting and burning has been extensive and several civilians have been killed.

Other disturbed places in the district are:

Gomal Bazar: Tribesmen raided the village last night.

Paharpur: (Paharpur) 22 shops and 60 houses were burnt, and one person wounded.

Kotla: Ten houses and shops were burnt, three women killed and one wounded.

Kirri Khaisor: Thirty person possibly converted to Islam.

Muzai Zai: About 25 shops burnt, one killed, one wounded.

Gandhi Umar Khan: Arson is reported but details are lacking.

Jatta Jalwa: Ten houses and five shops were burnt.

The situation is under control in D.I. Khan Town. The latest casualties figures are 16 dead and 48 wounded. It is estimated that in fires which were started on Tuesday about nine hundred shops have been destroyed.

Casualties at Baroa now total 4 dead.

The railway line near Peshawar was damaged by a bomb this morning but has been repaired. There was minor riot in Haripura jail yesterday.

The Superintendent of Police Hazara with military and Frontier Constabulary visited Malachha village on 16th and 17th April and recovered considerable property from the debris of burnt houses. Human remains were also found.--API.

APRIL 24: SITUATION IN FRONTIER;

PESHAWAR, April 22. The Governor of N.W.F.P left for Dehra Ismail Khan this morning by air His Excellency will also visit Tank.

The Frontier Government's communique issued to-night says: THE SITUATION in Dera Ismail Khan District has improved and there have been no reports of any serious fresh incidents. Some Hindus have been evacuated from

from the affected villages. It is reported that upto April 20, 101 persons had been killed and 25 wounded in the disturbances in the district excluding Dera Ismail Khan city.

Telephone wires were cut on the night of April 20 on the Kohat-Bannu road and in the Kohat Pass. In the Pass, a bridge is also reported to have been damaged by an explosion.

A Sikh was stabbed in Peshawar Cantonment this morning. Muslim League women demonstrators entered the Peshawar station of the All-India Radio today and caused some damage to Government property. __API.

MAY 19: HOUSES SET ON FIRE;

Lahore, May 18. The communal situation in Lahore, which showed some improvement yesterday, received a set back early this morning when gun-shoots and explosions were reported from Rajgarh area. Nine persons were killed and over a score wounded in the incident in which members of both communities exchanged gun-shoots and set fire to houses.

The trouble persisted for about one hour until the police arrived on the scene and quelled the rioting. The police have taken into custody about half a dozen persons belonging to one community who are alleged to be involved in the incident and have recovered a few pistols and rifles. Hand-grenades and ^{crud} country bombs are stated to have been freely used in the course of the attack.

Following this incident the District Magistrate imposed a 22 hour curfew on the areas.

POLICE OPEN FIRE ON RIOTERS;

Lahore, May 17. Seven cases of stabbing in all occurred in the city today, of which two proved fatal. Two persons were killed in police fire.

While panic and tension continue to prevail in a high degree, there were fewer cases of stabbing and

stabbing and of arson.

In the after noon, the police had to open fire to disperse rioters in Haveli Kabuli Mal. The rioters engaged in an exchange of brick-bats when the police arrived on the spot and opened fire to disperse them. Two persons were killed and two injured.

Five new cases of arson occurred in the after-noon - one on the Grand Trunk Road near an Educational Institution where two bungalows were set on fire and another in the same locality where a colony of labourers suffered apparently for no sin of theirs, in the shape of complete destruction of their two hundred thatched huts .

The smouldering ~~bambers~~ of yesterday's hollow-caust within the walled city again flared up today in three places and caused damage to a number of buildings in the areas concerned.

The fires were extinguished after a hard struggle by the fire brigades which had often to fall back on remote sources of water.

MR. KIRPALANI'S VISIT TO RAWALPINDI.

RAWALPINDI, May 17 . Acharya K. B. Kirpalani, the Congress President who arrived here yesterday, accompanied by Mrs. Sucheta Kirpalani and Dr. Lehna Singh, spent a busy day.

The Congress President was received at Chakrala aerodrome by prominent Congress men and Hindu and Sikh leaders of Rawalpindi, including officials of the rehabilitation and Central Relief Committees. After staying half an hour at the resident of Mr. Dev Raj Anand, President of the Rawalpindi Municipal Committee Acharya Kirpalani and party visited Duberan, Thamali and Kallar , the worst affected areas in Rawalpindi district to see for themselves the havoc and devastation caused there. On their way back the party visited

visited Mangot. Brahimna, a purely Hindu village which remained unaffected during the disturbances mostly due to the help of the Muslims of adjoining villages. Acharya Kirpalani addressed a few words of encouragement to the villagers.

On his return to this host's residence, Acharya Kirpalani met about 30 prominent non-Muslim citizens, including Hindu Sabha and Akali leaders, and received deputations of the rehabilitation and central relief committees.

Asked to give his impressions, Acharya Kirpalani, in an interview, said that ^{at} present he did not propose to make any statement except that the devastation he saw in the villages was beyond description. The conduct of women in the affected areas, he added, could bear comparison with what one heard of Rajput women in Rajput history. To him ~~whatsoever~~ it appeared that the question of rehabilitation was not as easy as it was generally believed to be whether by the public or by the authorities. It was full of difficulties which were peculiar to the areas.

The Congress President left this morning for Srinagar.

JULY 16:

AKALI LEADERS WARNING.

"The Sikhs will not rest content till the boundary line is demarcated in such a way that it leaves at least 85 per cent of the Sikhs in India" declares Giani Kartar Singh, ~~today~~ President of the Shromani Akali Dal in a statement today. "Both the States of Pakistan and India are committed to facilitate the transfer of the remaining 15 per cent from Pakistan into India," the Akali leaders adds.

Giani Kartar Singh says: "The Panth, in general and the Sikhs political workers in particular, may well be proud of the completeness with which the prayer and Pledge taking Day (on July 3) was observed all over the province. It is clear that the stark realities of the distressing

situation have gone home to every Sikh, howsoever, cut off from the usual sources of political knowledge he may have been.

Some Muslim League leaders have taken offence at this harmless expression of Sikh abony and have issued extravagant statements calculated to embitter the feelings between the two communities. They have demanded the Sutlej as the dividing line in the Punjab. Only a few weeks back they proposed to fight for every inch of the Punjab, and now they have retreated to the Sutlej; There are some more weeks to August 15, and their pace of retreat is not slow either.

JULY 21: PARTITION OF PUNJAB:

LAHORE, July 19. Giani Kartar Singh, President of the Shiromani Akali Dal and member of the Pakistan Constituent Assembly in an interview declared tonight: It is entirely wrong and against facts to state that the Sikhs have accepted the June 3 plan in an un-questionable manner. The Sikhs have not accepted the plan as such. The Sikh position is that they do not agree to a partition that does not maintain the solidarity of their population in the East-Punjab and does not consolidate their shrines in the East Punjab. This fact is sufficiently borne out in the letter of Sardar Baldev Singh which he addressed to the Viceroy on June 2, 1947. I have requested Sardar Baldev Singh to release his letter for publication and I am sure it will be before the public shortly.

"The Boundary Commission has begun his work in accordance with the June 3 plan. It will have to face conflicting view-points, but it is expected that it will decide all matters on the basis of justice and equity. It certainly cannot ever look those colony and other areas which have been developed with the sweat, labour and toil of the Sikhs at a time when others refused to do so.

"I give only one illustration. There is an area of

There is an area of three thousands miles comprising 50 zails, extending from Toba Choki Mallan in Sheikhpura district, and from Baloki Road to Nowshera in Gujranwala district, Lyallpur district claims 28 zails. Its population is about ten lakhs out of which six lakhs are non-Muslims, the majority of whom are Sikhs. Seventy per cent of the land revenue in this area is paid by the non-Muslims. Besides, all the towns in this tracts such as Sheikhpura, Chuhan Kana, Andi Dgabbar Singh ~~containing population~~ Sangla hills, Lyallpur, Ujra, and Nankana Sahib contain a population with a majority of non-Muslims extending from sixty five to seventy per cent in each town. Its entire trade and commerce is in the hands of non-Muslims. It contribute two to three ~~crores~~ crores of revenues to Provincial and Central Exchequer. The it is also contiguous to the Majha area of Lahore district where non-Muslims are again in majority. On the top of all this, this tract contains the holiest of the holy, the birthplace of Guru Nanak Devji, Nankana Sahib and another sacred shrine, Sacha Sauda. How can the Boundary Commission overlook this important non-Muslim area?"

" SIKHS LET DOWN". "The Britishers have yet a part to play. And I hope this time they will play in it fair. They committed the worst treachery in the world history when they took the Punjab as guardians of the minor Sikh Maharaja. They led down the Sikhs badly in 1919, in the Montagu Chelmsford reforms. They repeated the same policy at the time of the communal award in 1935. They again badly treated the Sikhs in the Cabinet delegation plan of May 1946. Yet again, they have left the Sikhs in the lurch when they have given sovereign States to Hindus and Muslims in the June 3 plan. Now Sikhs ask only that their integrity and solidarity should be maintained and the sacred shrines saved from Pakistan. This will be the just time in the history of Anglo-Sikh relations when the British will have

Ind will have to play a role. Could the Sikhs expect that it will be fairly played? It will be for Sir Cyril Radcliffe to reply. I need only hope that the British will not leave behind a record which the Sikh posterity may recollect with bitterness. I appeal to the British conscience of Sir Cyril Radcliffe to do justice to the Sikhs"__API.

MORCHA AGAINST DIVISION URGED:

Ind New Delhi, July 19. A resolution urging upon the Shiromani Akali Dal to launch an immediate "Morcha" against the unjust Division of the Punjab was passed by the all Parties Sikh convention, held in New Delhi today. The convention assured the Akali Dal of its full support and demanded a clear and definite provision for compulsory exchange of property and population between the Eastern and Western-Punjab.

In this resolution, the convention also reiterated the unanimous opinion of the Sikhs' Panth protesting against the Notional division of the Punjab and demanded a boundary line which would include the important places of worship of the Sikhs, such as Nanakana Sahib, the birthplace of the founder of the religion".

Nearly 50 delegates from various parts of the Punjab and the N.W.F.P. and officials representatives from most of the Sikh States of the Punjab attended the convention.

JULY 24:

PARTITION OF THE PUNJAB:

"NO DIVISION OF HOLY PLACES "

LONDON, July 29. The warning that the Sikhs would fight rather than see a division of holy places was given by Sardar Ganga Singh, leader of the "Fighting Sikh" Delegation which has come to Britain to seek division of the provisional Punjab demarcation line.

At a Press Conference yesterday, Sardar Ganga Singh said that the area proposed to be given to Pakistan lay between the provisional boundary and the river Chenab, but

but was occupied by more Sikhs than Muslims and included many important Sikh shrines.

"Whatever happens to the other aspects of the division of the Punjab the Sikhs will never tolerate the division of their holy places. We have hesitation in declaring that the Sikh will be ready to fight once again as they did in the past," he declared.

Also present at the press conference was the other members of the Mission, Sardar Maheban Singh Dhupia. The two Sikhs made a striking picture with their traditional swords long black beards, bresslets and multi-coloured turbans.

The Sikhs Mission has been sent to London by the Shiromani Akali Dal the only representative political body of four million Sikhs in the Punjab," Sardar Ganga Singh said. "We were greatly heartened by the moving speeches of men like Sir Stafford Cripps, Mr R.A. Butler, Mr. Arthur Henderson and Lord Listowel during the recent debate on India.

"They admitted the injustice and harm done to the Sikh community by proposing a division of the province which cuts across, as it were, the body politic of this great community. We hope the British public will help us in our efforts to maintain the integrity and homogeneity of the Sikh community to enable them to lead their peaceful existence and effectively contribute to human progress and happiness," The Sikh leader added "SIKS NEVER WANTED DIVISION." Pointing out that neither the Sikh community nor the Indian National Congress wanted a division of India or the Punjab, Sardar Ganga Singh said it was a British decision taken to appease the Muslim League, which the Congress accepted with a heavy heart and serious misgivings".

He added: "as loyal followers of the Indian National Congress, the Sikh community has agreed to

agreed to accept this British solution of the Indian Problem in principle. But we cannot agree to the division of the Punjab if it is ~~ex~~ carried out against the best interest of the community, particularly if the important Sikhs holyshrines are allowed to be under Pakistan control.

"There are seven hundred holy shrines of the Sikhs spread all over the Punjab, the most improtant of which will go to the Pakistna area if the Baundary Commission now adjusting the line of demarcation in the Eastern and Western districts of the Puanjb, is not careful.

The Sikh community believes in the principle of 'Live and let Live'. However, they are soldiers by birth and will ~~at~~ not tolerate injustice to their just claims and demands. They know how to act in critical moments, although they have no desire to be on the offensive.

"If, however, a fight is forced on them, the Sikhs will face it with their traditional coolness, ready to sacrifice everything for the defence of their home and holy land."

The two Sikh leaders will meet Mr. R.A. Butler, former Under Secretary of State for India, to morrow and hope to see Lord Listowel, Secretary of State for India, and Mr. Arthur Hinderson, Under Secretary for India.

Reuter.

AUGUST 7: PARTITON OF THE PUNJAB:

AKALI LEADERS CALL TO SIKHS.

NEW DELHI, August 2: Giani Kartar Singh, President, Shriomani Akali Dal in a statement today calls upon Sikhs to observe August 5 as "Nankana Sahib" Day.

He says: Though the ban at Nankana Sahib has been successfully defied and restrictions on holding of our conference withdrawn the Sikhs have proved once again their determination not to surrender the sacred territory

territory of Nankana Sahib at any cost to the "Pakistanists".

I call upon all Sikhs to observe August 5 as "Nanakana Sahib Day"? hold meetings and send telegrams to the Chairman of the Boundary Commission that unless 85% of our population and colony areas are kept in the East Punjab and due regard is paid to our holy shrines while demarcating its boundaries so as to bring in the largest number of these in "Hindustan" we shall not rest content."

SIKH CAMPAIGN IN BRITAIN:

LONDON, Aug.2. Two hundred Indians, most of them Sikhs in colourful turbans attended a public meeting last night to hear the Sikh Delegates who have come to London to present a Sikh Demand in connection with the division of the Punjab.

Bardar Ganga Singh, Leader of the Delegation, said that he had come to London representing one of the most influential Sikh organisations in the Punjab ~~in~~ the Shiromani Akali Dal, to present the demands of the Sikhs regarding the Punjab division.

The river Chenab should be the Boundary Line of the two Punjab, he said, Any thing contrary to this would be against the interest of the Sikhs and he hoped that the British Chairman of the Boundary Commission would be fair and impartial. The Sikhs had ~~not~~ made contributions during the last war for freedom and democracy and it would be the greatest tragedy if they were deprived of their legitimate demands in their own homeland. Besides, no power on earth can dominate this gallant community.

If the Sikhs were deprived of their legitimate demands, the Punjab would be the land of eternal troubles. Mr. Ganga Singh continued.

Dr. Kumria, the Chairman of the meeting, said he was opposed to the division of India, but it seemed that under the circumstances, the leaders of the Indian

Indian National Congress were justified in accepting the Mountbatten plan .

"Since we accept the division of India we would like to see that there are fair division of the provinces of the Punjab and Bengal."

The Chairman emphasised that this division was bound to be temporary and would vanish within a short time." _____ Reuter.

AUGUST 19, 19: SHOOTING INCIDENT IN LAHORE.

LAHORE, August 18. The communal situation in Lahore remained remarkably quiet on Monday the District Magistrate, Mr. Zafrul Ahsan, informed the Associated Press of India to night. There had been no fresh fire or stabbing incidents in the walled city today.

Early this morning 6 persons driving a jeep shot dead one person at a place where a similar incident occurred last evening. Troops and police posted in the area surrounded the vehicle and took the culprits into custody. The incident was followed by ~~Six~~ six stabbing cases in the same locality, all of which proved fatal. ~~Two~~ x

The countryside remained quiet.

TRAIN HELD UP BY MOB:

LAHORE , Aug 16. During August 14 and in the first part of August 15, communal strife continued, but towards the ~~evening~~ evening of 15th an improvement of the situation was noticeable, says a Press communique issued by the West Punjab Government.

In more than one area battles between Sikhs and Muslims mobs were broken up by fire from the troops who took prisoners.

A mob throwing a stones at a fire brigade was dispersed by the troops.

In a train held up and attack by a gang, the Military guard on the trai, themselves suffering 33%

casualties in the fight, held off the attackers and prevented further casualties to passengers after those inflicted in the initial stages of the affray. Military reinforcements arrived on the scene and broke up the attack, driving of the assailants and rendering aid to the wounded.

Muslim leaders of Lahore and Sikh leaders of Amritsar have General Rees personal assurances to launch an immediate campaign to bring to a close violence against life and property, and also assurances of mutual assistance to refugees.

SEPTEMBER 4: COMMUNAL SITUATION IN INDIA:

LONDON, Sep. 3 : Though communal massacres and disorders have brought the Punjab into lurid prominence, it is only one facet of the Indian scene and nothing has happened yet to destroy the co-operation between the two great communities which followed the partition, the Liberal News Chronicle states in a leader today.

"The world has been shocked by the murder and destruction which has been let loose upon a frightful scale in the Punjab", it said. "To many in this country it must seem if there gravest forebodings had been realized and that Britain, by removing a restraining hand, has left India at the mercy of her own un-governed passions.

"It is only too true that the strife between Sikh and Muslims is costing a terrible shadow over the two new Dominions. No efforts must be spared to bring it to an end.

"But it should not be forgotten that the Punjab is only one small part of a vastly greater land," the paper adds. "Over much areas of India there is today ^{tranquility} ~~troubled~~ and co-operation where violence and strife might have been expected.

"Elsewhere the great transition to independence has been accomplished without destruction. Communications

Communications have not been broken. Trade and life flow along their accustomed channel.

✓ "It is time that there has been rioting in Calcutta but it is noting compared to the outburst there might have been if the communal leaders had not acted together to maintain unity and peace, the News Chronicle goes on.

"It is on this greater, quieter scene that the mind should swell, and a simple stability means serenity and change is itself an incitement to un-rest. It is a hopeful sign that so great an up-heavel has been accomplished over the country as a whole with so little disturbances. ___Reuter.

EXCHANGE OF POPULATION :

✓ LAHORE, Sep. 2: The gigantic^y refugee relief machinery is getting into a swing. The great exodus has begun, which may easily involve an exchange of over a million people on each side an operation un-precendented in its size and historic significance, calling fourth all the organisational ability of the military and the civilian authorities, says a joint despatch by Press Correspondents accompanying Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his tour of the disturbed Punjab.

The residents at Faletti's Hotel work up this morning to the sound of a great bustle and shuffle along the road, the correspondents write. For over two hours, they watched the quaintest ~~xxxxxx~~ cavalcade passing along. That was the first organised evacuee party of Hindu and Sikh refugees on its way to Amritsar. Men, women and children with their few movable earthly belongings including cycles, charpoys, and pets, on sixty trucks and a myriad of donkey carts bullock-carts and horse-carriages, formed the caravan. Besides, hundreds tracked driving, their cattle along. A flying military jeep petrol shepherded the procession which was also inter-persed with lorries with troops .

These refugees were the first large batch of the

batch of the ten thousands Hindus and Sikhs crammed in the D.A.V. College camp. Today, two air-force dekotas brought all the way from Delhi sixty Maunds of Chapattis and dropped them to the large groups of refugees stranded at various points on the west bank of the river Ravi. These refugees were practically moured unable to cross the river and harrassed marauders and run out of food supplies. INDIA GOVERNMENT HAVE MOBILISED 1,3000 lorries: 1300 lorries have been mobilised by the government of India to carry out this major operation of exchanging evacuees from East and West Punjab. The Pakistan Government is co-operating in this task. In-adequate petrol supply, however is reported to be handicapping speedy progress.

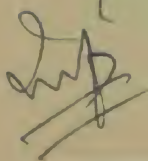
The operation covers not only transporting evacuees from the refugee centres to the other side of the border, but picking up people from isolated pockets far in the country and providing relief and food supplies to them while doctors and nurses are awaiting the evacuees at the other end to minister to their medical needs.

Those who want to track on their own are provided with armed escort, others are transported by rail and truck and yet others by air for other purpose ten dakotas have been assembled at different airfields in the West Punjab.

PREMIERS VISIT MONTGOMARY:

LAHORE, Sep2: The staggering figure of 300,000 Sikh and Hindu refugees having moved within the past week from the Montgomery district into Indian territory was given today to Pandit Nehru and Mr. Liqueat Ali Khan by the military authorities when the two Premiers reached Montgomery travelling 102 miles by roads, says a joint despatch by Press Correspondents accompanying Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his tour of the disturbed Punjab.

This carvan was perhaps the longest in history



history since at one time 1,50,000 persons were on the road spreading over sixty miles. A majority of them passed over the Sulemanki Bridge which was crossed by the refugees in 36-hours.

It is said that the moment this mass of refugees set foot on Indian soil, they heaved a sigh of relief and some shouted 'Azad Hindustan Zindabad'. This mass movement was mostly done by those who had bullock-carts or animals for transport. Those who are to be carried by train number about 40,000 and are mostly in camps in Montgomery and Okara. When these are moved away within the next week or two, practically 90 per cent of the Sikh and Hindu population of Montgomery district would have moved into India.

According to military authorities there had been mass conversion of Sikhs and Hindus in certain areas and that several cases of abduction of women had occurred not only in villages but also while they were on the road to India. The casualties since the military took over were not more than two hundred. Since the flare up occurred on August 18 and lasted till August 25 the casualties occurred before the military took charge of the situation. According to civil authorities, the total casualties are about a thousand, but the deputation of Congress leader estimated them at ten thousand.

NEVER MOVED BY SIGHT OF REFUGEES :

Pandit Nehru and Mr. Lquat Ali Khan were accompanied today by Mr. Karamat Ali, a Minister of the West Punjab Government. For about 40 miles, they passed several Muslim refugees moving west-ward in a small groups and others resting on the road side for mid-day meal. Soon they found the road blocked by a three mile procession of refugees, mostly Sikhs. It was a tragic sight - Pandit Nehru got out of his car and stood gazing at the refugees. He was visibly moved by this mass movement for which a ~~xxxxx~~ parallel can

can be found only in mediaeval times . Apparently, the refugees who were mostly from villages in Sheikhpura district had not seen him before and therefore did not recognize him. They did seem struck by the personality of the Gandhi Capped and Khadi Dressed leader and the several cars and jeeps accompanying him Pandit Nehru then moved towards a group and asked them where they had come from.

Ind a Typically rustic woman without knowing whom she was talking to, said instantly: "If you wanted to partition the country why did you not first arrange for exchange of population ? See what misery has come on us all ". Pandit Nehru did not answer. His heart was too full with sympathy for this mass of humanity trekking its way to the land they feel would give them peace and security. Some of them asked, are there proper arrangements for us enroute? We hope we will reach safely our Azad Hindustan." The huge caravan was escorted by Gorkhas and Dogras. It ran little risk of attack also because most of the able-bodied Sikhs and Hindus were armed with spears and Kirpans.

The next stop was at Okara where Pandit Nehru and Mr. Liasat Ali Khan went into Birla Mill, a flour Mill and a Government Milk Condensing Factory to find out whether they were safe and needed any help. They all reported that no incident had occurred, but that their Hindu and Sikh staff had left out of panic.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST OFFICIALS:

The two Prime Ministers next visited Okara Grain Market where the scenes witnessed in the Muslim refugee camp at Hoshiarpur yesterday were re-enacted. About 25,000 refugees had gathered here and both the Premiers made a round of the market through large crowds. First the crowd was reverential and cried "Pandit Nehru Zindabad" later on ^{it} became ~~by~~ boisterous and shouted slogans, mostly stating that the Deputy Commissioner of the District and

and police officials were responsible for the murder and loot from which Sikh and Hindus of the district had suffered. Pandit Nehru, while walking, gathered from a Congress leader, the story of the camp and of the past week and promised to send them relief without delay.

SEPTEMBER 10: TOLL OF PUNJAB RIOTS:

Lup | BENARAS, Sep. 9: The number of those killed in the Punjab riots was estimated by Mr. Sri Prakasha, Indian High Commissioner in Pakistan at over a lakh and a half. He gave this estimate speaking at a dinner here. Mr. Sri Prakasa repeated his earlier figure of those who had crossed over from Pakistan to India and vice-versa at more than the lakhs and those who were still on the way at over 4 lakhs.

Mr. Sri Prakasa deplored the hatred that had developed in the Punjab between the various communities. He said: "So bitter is the feeling between the followers of Hinduism and Islam that ~~xx~~ they would not even look at each other. We have all to hang down our heads in shame at what has happened." He added: "The only relieving future is that the Governments of India and Pakistan have now come forward with the assurance that peace will be restored."

"When I left the Punjab I was gratified to learn that proper arrangements had been made for the relief of the refugees and for the protection of the property left behind by the owners. It is quite possible that the fire in the Punjab may die out itself as so many fires die out, but it may also spread."

HOW RIOTS STARTED:

Lup | Individual British officials must have done acts which accentuated communal differences, but the Labour Government in England supported no such policy, said Mr. Sri Prakasa, at a Press conference this morning.

Mr. Sri Prakasa began by explaining how the riots

Why riots

the riots in the Punjab started. He said that in the initial stage some Indian officials did take sides but the Government did not want any disturbances. They desired to do their best for the minorities in their charge provided, of course, the minorities gave them the fullest allegiance. "There is no doubt." Mr. Sri Prakasa went on, "That with the departure of the officials belonging to the minorities communities from their midst in the opting out process the minorities in private life lost confidence in their security as they did not feel safe. Panic and rumour made the situation worse. Many undesirable elements in the social life came on the scene and terrible events followed."

SEPTEMBER 21: RESPONSIBILITY FOR RIOTS:

Why riots

NEW DELHI, Sep. 20: Addressing a Press conference here today, Master Tara Singh and Sardar Harnam Singh denied the charge made by "Pakistan propagandist" that the Sikhs were endeavouring to carve out a separate state for themselves and that was the cause of all the present troubles in the Punjab. The Sikh leaders said that it was the part of "Muslim propaganda to divide the Sikhs and Hindus".

Master Tara Singh said that Muslim League Leader had made similar attempts before the partition. "They failed in their attempts then. I said so then, and I say so now, that the Hindus and Sikhs will rise or fall together. It is not possible that the Hindus live and the Sikh die. It is also not possible that the Sikhs live and the Hindus die..

"There might be internal dissension, and even conflicts, between them. They were common in peacetime but in times of crisis, they will live or die together.

Master Tara Singh analysed at length the events which led to the present conflict and mass migration in the Punjab and said that attacks on the minorities had

had been happening since March last. The Sikhs and the Hindus did not retaliate. The Muslim leaders never expressed regret nor condemned these attacks unequivocally; on the other hand, they were taunting the Sikhs as cowards who could not retaliate. It was this kind of mentality which was directly responsible for the trouble spreading and for the clash of arms in the Punjab.

Imp
The West Punjab Government, when they came into power, disposed ^{disposed} even licence holders of arms from among the minority community of their arms. The Sikhs had been deprived of their Kirpans by the police and the military, although this was never publicised.

✓
Sardar Harnam Singh said that ~~xxxx~~ two days after the West Punjab Government came into being, the Pakistan Radio had said orders had been issued to district authorities asking them to be more liberal in the grant of licences under the Indian Arms Act. The liberality, he said, was exercised however, only in favour of the Muslims.

Sardar Harnam Singh also referred to Pakistan propaganda that the trouble in both the Punjabs was entirely between the Sikhs and the Muslims. Malik Feroz Khan Noon had made the astounding statement that the Hindus and the Muslims were living as brothers throughout the Union of India and throughout the territory of Pakistan.

In no case had there been any discrimination shown, Sardar Harnam Singh declared, as between the Sikhs and the Hindus by looters and gangsters in West Punjab. Hindus had been killed, looted and their women abducted just like the Sikhs.

NOT TRYING TO CARVE OUT A SEPARATE STATE:

"Pakistan propagandists" were trying to attribute the whole blame to the Sikhs by saying that the Sikhs were trying to carve out a separate state, said Sardar Harnam Singh. That was absurd for if the non-Muslims from West Punjab were all shifted to the East,

the Sikhs would still be in a smaller minority. If such an attempt was made and succeeded in effect, there would be a Hindu State and not a Sikh State: The Hindus would be seventy per cent and the Sikhs thirty per cent.

Sardar Harnam Singh added that attempts were being made to divide the Sikhs and the Hindus. In support of his contention, Sardar Harnam Singh who had presented the Sikh case before the Boundary Commission, recalled how the Muslims had said that while the Sikhs by themselves would be entitled to the special consideration as a minority, they had to claim any such consideration because they had joined hands with the Hindu majority in India.

Master Tara Singh gave the following estimate of casualties in West and East Punjab:

West Punjab well over one lakh which might have risen to two lakhs by now .

East Punjab: about a lakh.

Master Tara Singh expressed concern at the fate of over 50,000 non-Muslims in Bahawalpur State in Pakistan who were literally stranded. The Nawab has expressed inability to give them escorts to the Indian border. It was upto the Indian Government to send their own troops to rescue these men and escort them to safety. The Patiala Government had he pointed out, sent their own escorts to Muslim refugees from the State and safely seen them across the border to Pakistan.

Master Tara Singh expressed di-satisfaction with what was being done for the evacuation and protection of refugees from West Punjab and said: "It would seem both the East Punjab Government and the Central Government are devoting more attention to the question of safely evacuating Muslims to Pakistan." ____ API.

SEPTEMBER 23: SITUATION IN THE PUNJAB:

NEW DELHI, Sep.22: A military spokesman said today that a British Major of the 1/9 Gorkha Rifles

killed in an ambush about 6-15 p.m. on Sep. 20. He was driving in a jeep from Jullundur to Nakodar and was ambushed while crossing a bridge.

The Major slowed down when fire was opened from the ambush and asked the Gorkha troops beside him to ~~like~~ take up position and return the fire. He was shot through chest, lost control and the jeep crashed. He received another bullet as he got out of the jeep__this time a fatal one in the head.

The Major whose name would be announced after the next of kin have been informed, was buried in the Cantonment Cemetery in Jullundur yesterday at 5 p.m. A court of enquiry is being held.

The spokesman said that General Sir Rob Lockhart Commander-in-Chief India, will make a tour of inspection of East Punjab tomorrow. He will hold consultations with the local commanders to ensure that the best possible use is made of the troops deployed in that area and co-ordinate the needs of refugees protection with those of internal security.

aircraft

Two transport/ of the Royal Indian Air-Force again dropped 12,000 lbs. of cooked food for marooned refugees on their way from the West Punjab to India.

Movement of refugees in both directions continues but attacks on convoys are reported from both East and West Punjab.

Vigorous patrolling and precautionary measures taken in the western parts of the U.P. have had a steadying effect and fewer clashes are reported.

In Kangra and Indian portion of Gurdaspur district three attacks on Muslim refugee columns are reported. In each case the military escort opened fire and dispersed the gangs. Twenty one refugees were killed in two of these attacks, there being no casualties in the third. Fifteen

Fifteen of the attackers are known to have been killed.

In Meerut, arrests were made in connection with the attack on a Muslim village. In another attack on a village troops opened fire, killing one wounding many.

SEPTEMBER, 24: APPEAL TO STOP RETALIATION:

Master Tara Singh and Udham Singh Nagoke in a joint statement to-day appealed to Hindus and Sikhs to stop all retaliation. The statement says: "We do not hesitate to admit that our brethren, Aikhs and Hindds, have also been guilty of most shameful attacks upon women and children in the communal warfare which is still continuing human nature shudders to think of these atrocities and we do not like to repeat these and thus give shock to the world. We know Sikhs stooped to these low depths only in retaliation for what was done by the Mu slim. But this is no justification for the Sikhs who have falsified tradition.

"We tried our best, and we are trying our best, to prevent our brethren from falling into these low tactics. But it appears that most of the Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs have gone mad. We appeal to our brethren, Hindus and Sikhs to halt and stop all retaliation. We do not desire the friendship of the Muslims and we may never befriend, them. We may have to fight them again, but we shall fight a clean fight __man killing man. This killing of women and children and of those who seek asylum must cease at once. It would mean that there should^{be} no attacks on refugee trains, convoys and caravans. We ask you to do so chiefly in the interest of your communities, reputation, character and tradition, and not to save the Muslims. We are sure that the Muslims religion does not permit these fiendish deeds. It is for them to think what is right from the Muslims point of view. We only desire that they may also stop this devilish warfare on their part at once, lest the devil of retaliation should overpower the

human nature of our brethren, the Sikhs and Hindus."

NON-MUSLIM REFUGEE TRAIN ATTACKED:

JULLUNDUR, Sep 23. Hoshiarpur, Kangra, Ludhiana, Rohtak and Gurgaon districts remained quiet, says a communique issued by the East Punjab Government to-night.

The village Dhoa Khurd in Amritsar district, the communique adds, was attacked by two hundred Muslims including troops of Pakistan.

A non-Muslim refugee train which arrived at Amritsar, from Pindidad Khan yesterday was attacked at Saharanpur and Harbanspura on the way. Of the three thousand five hundred persons who ~~were~~ boarded the train only two thousand reached Amritsar. The rest are reported to have been killed at Saharanpur and Harbanspura. One hundred and fifty girls have been abducted.

A minor clash is reported from Kartapur in Jullundur district between a Muslim convoy and some non-Muslim.

SEPTEMBER, 29. GOONDA RULE IN WEST PUNJAB:
(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT). -

NEW DELHI, Sep. 28. Writing under the caption "Governor-
"in its issue of Sep. 23, the Civil & Military Gazette
of Lahore says:

"We have waited in vain for some sign of West Punjab asserting itself and giving some overt proof of its ability to govern. More than five weeks have passed since the military was formed and rapid deterioration has occurred in every department. Admittedly, the circumstances have been exceptional and difficulty has been piled on difficulty, but the Ministers have not ~~resigned~~ risen to the occasion. Their in-experience would normally have led to nothing more serious than entrenchment of the bureaucracy while Ministers learned their jobs; But in view of the almost complete break down of the administration, this in-experience is proving a tragedy for West Punjab. At the moment the province is being ruled not by Khan

by Khan Iftikhar Hussan Khan of Mamdot and his colleagues, but by police constables and goondas. New heads of depatsts find that the organisation has collapsed and discipline is non-existent. Magistrate and petty officials are discovering, in the absence of broad lines of policy, that ~~xxxx~~ it is impossible to implement orders which are ill-conceived and not un-often mutually contradictory. And the public is being ground between the upper mill-stone of ignorance and in-competence and the lower one of corruption and self-aggrandisement .

"Meanwhile, the Ministers do not know how to do things or how to get them done and the all too brief course of intensive cramming conducted by Mr. Lquat Ali Khan during his recent visit to Lahore has yet to show ~~res~~ results. At the moment, West Punjab Ministers are doing little in public either to allay disorder or to rehabilitate moral which is at its lowest ebb in recent history

"GOVERN OR GET OUT"

"Our advice to them would be to govern or get out__accept that the political herizon is at the moment almost bare of pretenders to their portfolios who offer hopes of better things ".

The comment from a paper which is by no means un-friendly to the Muslim-League source that there is no such thing as ordered Governemtn in West Punjab and that League leaders are afraid to interfere with the activities of their fanatical followers.

MUST REFRAIN FROM RETALIATION;

Patiala Ruler's Appeal;

NEW DELHI, Sep.28: The Maharaja of Patiala has appealed to the Sikhs and the Hindus to refrain from all retaliatory activities and to divert their attention to constructive work "By which alone they can help their brethren in the West Punjab to be safely evacuated and resettled in this country. "

His Highness says: "India has been passing through a serious up-heave. Each one of us must view with horror and shame the wave of communal frenzy that has swept this land of ours causing heavy loss of life and up-rooting a vast number of people from the soil of their ancestral homes.

"It will serve no purpose to indulge in apportioning blame for the recent terrible happenings. Those of us who have seen from close quarters the genesis and the course of the communal flare up in the Punjab can well appreciate the depth of the feelings of those who have been victims of the heart-rending events that have fouled and besmirched the great and the glorious land that was the Punjab. However, we must realize that retaliation only leads us into a vicious circle which we must endeavour to break. We are all engaged now in the gigantic task of safely evacuating the vast number of Sikhs and Hindu refugees from the West Punjab and unless the people co-operate ~~the~~ with the authorities in speeding up the process of evacuation of the refugees, we shall be risking a large number of valuable lives who are depending on us for their safe evacuation.

REHABILITATION WORK:

"~~THEN~~ there is the big problem of settling and rehabilitating these refugees. The authorities cannot give whole-hearted attention to these big problems in their vast magnitude if their attention is diverted by lawless activities which ~~xx~~ disrupts communications and clogs the administrative machinery.

"In this moment of serious stress to the country, it is the imperative duty of every Indian to be of some assistance to the Government and to refrain from activities which would defeat the very purpose which the people resorting to retaliatory measures have in view, namely, the well being of their own kith and kin. If people will not

If people will not go back to their normal evocations and will not cultivate their lands or attend to their crops and their cattle, they will only add to their own distress as also the distress and difficulties of those who are coming to us to seek comfort and homes. I appeal to the Sikhs and Hindus with all the earnestness at my command to refrain from all retaliatory activities and to divert their attention to constructive work by which alone they can help their brethren in West Punjab to be safely evacuated and re-settled in this country. I so much hope that they will view things in the correct perspective and will not let their frayed tempers to stand in the way of adopting the course that is the most essential for restoring normal conditions in this country of ours.

We are passing through a grave ordeal.. Our moral heritage, the most cherished of our possessions is at stake. Our fitness for independence is being put to a severe test. Let us face the situation with courage and fortitude and set ourselves to the great task ahead of us in a spirit of tolerance and without frittering away our energies in re-crimination or retaliation."

CHARGE AGAINST SIKHS

KARACHI, Sep.26: "Villages and crops in Lahore district were flooded when Sikhs blocked the main branch ~~xxx~~ (Lower of the Upper Bari Doab canal at Sulkian Bridge and cut the right bank ~~above~~ the block on Sep.15," States a Press note issued by the Ministry of Information Government of Pakistan

The Press note added: "As the breach was in East Punjab, the civil authorities of that province were approached in the matter. The ~~Superintending~~ Superintending Engineer of the Upper Bari Doab Canal at Amritsar closed the canal at the ^{head} ~~end~~ with the object of repairing the breach. The canal was closed for two days, but no repairs were affected and the canal was re-opened.

"The Government of Pakistan have made a strong representation to the Government of India on this matter."

OCTOBER, 3 : REFUGEE CONVOY AMBUSHED:

NEW DELHI, Oct. 2 : Indian Major of the Indian Army reported killed and two Indian other ranks seriously wounded when a non-Muslim convoy from Tandlianwala (West Punjab, which was being escorted by Indian Army troops, came under heavily fire from an ambush on the main road. Stating this, the military spokesman added that enquiries were being made.

A report from Amritsar (not quoted by the military spokesman) says that the convoy was proceeding to Jaranwala and that the attackers weapons included a brangun. They are also stated to have set a booby trap.

The military spokesman said that 30 deaths a day from cholera were reported from Korali refugee camp (Ambala). The American Medical Mission is helping the civilian authorities to check the epidemic.

Owing to floods Balloki Headworks remained closed on Sep. 30 for non-Muslim refugees coming east. Three parties of approximately 10,000 non-Muslim refugees each, who have passed the headworks, are halted at Bhaipheru, on the Manga-Rajajang Road and Athulpur respectively. The Kasur-Gandasinghwala Road is still under water. Lahore military areas has been requested to route non-Muslim foot-convoys to Khemkaran from Kasur.

The military evacuation organisation, India has sent 130 bags of rice, ten bags of un-refined sugar, 13 bags of cooked food and 25 bags of chana to the Manganwala and Balloki head areas of the non-Muslim refugees moving to the Indian Dominion.

A bridge on the Mangtanwala - Balloki Road has collapsed and no movement of motor transport is possible on that stretch.

A second part of foot convoy of 50,000 non-Muslims from Kalaswala (Sialkot district) has reached Dera Baba Nanak. It may be remembered that this convoy was spilt into two owing to bad weather. The first half of this convoy is already in Dera Baba Nanak.

MUSLIM CONVOY REACHES WEST PUNJAB SAFE:

A convoy of 15,000 Muslims passed through Amritsar to Wagh yesterday without incident. There are 1,50,000 Muslim refugees at Beas. A part of this concentration is expected to move to Kilchain today.

There was no movement of refugees by rail in either direction. However, 1,700 Muslims moved to Pakistan and 3,200 non-Muslims arrived in the Amritsar areas in lorries.

Attacks on non-Muslim foot convoys are reported from West Punjab. A convoy from Jargoda to Layallpur, it is reported, was attacked on Sep.30 resulting in casualties. Lahore military area has been requested to investigate. It is also reported that non-Muslims were attacked at a village nine ~~xxix~~ miles north of Jaranwala on the night of Sep.28/29 .

The following is the summary of events reported during the 24-hours ending 6 a.m. today:

Ambala : Some tension prevails in the city. One stabbing incident occurred yesterday. There was also a bomb incident in the city, in which one per cent was wounded.

Simla and Karnal are quiet.

Ballabgarh : On Sep. 29 approximately 15 non-Muslims entered a compartment while the Down Bombay Express was to leave Balbgarh /Railway Station and attacked the passengers. The train x escort rushed to the compartment but the assailants escaped. Non- of the passengers was killed but six Muslims were injured. The train was searched and some weapons were recovered. And arrest was made. The train proceeded after Muslim passengers were grouped to-

together under a protective escort.

INCIDENTS IN FRONTIER:

N.W.F.P., A military convoy evacuated all non-Muslims from Lakki without incident. Large mobs who met this convoy en route and tried to interfere, it is stated, were successfully persuaded by the civil authorities to disperse. Five Hindus were killed and two wounded at Boriwala when they were attacked on their way to Bannu in tongas. Two of the attackers were killed and some arrests were made by the police. The company of troops and two armoured cars were sent to Goriwals to restore confidence among the population.

At Kalabagh approximately seventy armed men killed eight and wounded twelve non-Muslims. The military petrol arrived on the spot and opened fire. Three of the attackers were killed and four wounded. Some shops were looted at Naurang Sarai and also some stray cases of shooting occurred. No casualties are reported. One hundred and eight refugees arrived at Bannu from Naurang Sarai without any incident.

Kohat: One Hindu was shot dead in a village near Hangu on the night of Sep.26/27.

Lachi: Three un-known persons entered and looted a Hindu house, wounding two and killing one.

Delhi: In the Saddar Bazar zone following searches by the military, looted and stolen property was recovered, including motor vehicles and cycles.

The R.A.F. is dropping thirty thousands pounds of chapattis for 23,000 villagers marooned on account of the floods in Wahand Mangtanwala (West Punjab. ___API.

OCTOBER, 7: EAST PUNJAB RETURNING TO NORMAL:

JULLUNDUR, 6. The situation is a whole is fast returning to normal says a communique issued by the East Punjab Govt. to night. Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Kangra, Ludhiana, Simla,

Ferozepur and Gurgaon are reported to be quiet. A total of 150,000 Muslims passed peacefully through Amritsar to the Pakistan border on Oct. 2. There have been numerous complaints of atrocities perpetrated by Muslim refugees and units of the Pakistan Army on non-Muslims and a lot of standing crops have been destroyed. A Muslim convoy camping at Amritsar on Oct. 3 killed one Hindu and two Sikhs. Five kidnapped Hindu women and a Hindu boy were rescued from their possession. Armed Muslims raided two villages in Parnal District and set buildings on fire. Muslims in Hissar City killed one Hindu on Oct. 3 which led to communal riot and police and military were called out. One hundred Hindus were injured and twenty killed while seventy Muslims were wounded and fifteen killed. Four police men were also wounded.

In Amritsar district, troops escorting Muslim refugees are seriously accused of murdering, kidnapping and looting non-Muslims on their way. Raids by border Muslims assisted by Pakistan troops continued.

In Batala, Gurdaspur district, Muslim troops escorting lorries of Muslim refugees spot dead two Sikhs wayfares. They were engaged by Indian troops which resulted in heavy exchange of fire.

HINDU PROTECT MUSLIMS:

JULLUNDUR, Oct. 5: News from the hilly regions of Hoshiarpur district and the Baswa Tehsil show that Hindus and Sikhs ~~xx~~ gave all help and protection to their Muslim neighbours. They not only offered them shelter but fed them, and protected their property. When the Muslims finally decided to go to the refugee camps the majority community undertook to protect their property in their absence. Many Muslims, as an evidence of their confidence, it is reported, have left the keys of their houses with their Hindu neighbours.

OCTOBER, 11:

THE PUNJAB DISORDERS:

The tragedy of the Punjab could have been foreseen. "If you go, we shall ^{kill} each other," said a Sikh peasant to me last December when I was riding across the province. He knew the past—he was 87 and was terrified of the future. He was not alone in his fear, In greater or less degree it was present all along my route from Indus to the Jumna. In Hoshiarpur, one of the districts most seriously affected a Sikh Officer on leave^x prophesied civil war, and a young Sikh merchant in the North said, "Freedom is destruction, and Pakistan is Kabristan— A grave-yard." In that grave-yard now lie un-numbered men, women and children. And three million more are homeless.

How has this happened? The causes are complex, and their roots lie deep in the past; but certain factors are clear. The clearest is the religious division between Hindu and Muslim. In March 1940, the Muslim League, in a meeting at Lahor, adopted Pakistan as their battle cry and target. Less than a month later the late Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan, then Premier of the Punjab, said to me in conversation that Pakistan was new idea to the Muslim peasants of the province and it would now run like wild fire through their heads. Till then the communal feeling so prominent in the town rarely found expression in the village, and whereas in the Eastern Punjab. Hindu and Muslim cultivated the land side by side, there often an inter-change of civilities at marriage and death. This friendly relationship was still in evidence last autumn, but marked by an under-line tension. In the election earlier in the year the cry of "Islam in danger" had been raised and thanks to sustained propaganda, by December the fear of Hindu Domination was upper-most in the Muslim minds. "We don't to exchange slavery to the English for slavery to the Hindu" was typical of what was said to me in the village. The fear was given a sinister turn by the tales of Muslims massacred in

in Bihar. The tales of the Hindus massacred in Eastern Bengal was not told.

POOR HARVESTS :

The fear of the Hindu Domination was easy to arouse owing to an economic factor. In the Western Punjab the peasants are pre-dominately Muslim and the trader and money-lender, Hindu or Sikh. In the past the exactions of the money-lender had often generated bitter feelings and occasional explosions, but certain bills passed early in the war had deprived him of his hold. Then came the rationing of grain, sugar and ~~flax~~ cloth, and much of the power lost by the Hindus as a money lender was regained by him as a trader, for the distribution of all necessities in short supply was automatically placed in his hands, and that too under the control of a department which was notoriously corrupt. All along my route there was "One universal hiss" against the controls not from the shop-keepers and their influential clients, who got all they wanted, but from the ordinary peasant, who got far less than his due and was obliged to buy in the black-market at exorbitant rates. It is difficult for a peasant to be philosophic when he sees these last loin cloth or shirt going to pieces, and the cloth-merchant with a pile of piecegoods which will he send at a fancy price. "We could not even get a shroud to bury our dead," was the kind of thing being said, and some times experienced. The shortage of cloth was bad enough but whereas north of Jhelum, a succession of poor harvest compelled the purchase of food-grains in the black-market, disgusted turned bitterness. And so, when early in March trouble broke out in Amritsar, Lahore and Multan, the Muslims of the North looted the shops and butchered heir-owners.

DIVISION OF PROVINCE: Many of the victims were Sikhs, and that brings me to a third factor. Had Hindu and Muslim alone been concerned, the division of the Punjab might have been effected without blood-shed. But the Sikhs

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But the Sikhs also had their claims, and they were as determined to prevent domination of the Muslim as the Muslims were the domination of the Hindu. Though only about four million in population of 29,000,000 they are a formidable community with a martial ardeour and a pride in their past which makes them un-willing to bow knee to any one but themselves and God, and they never forget that it was from them that we conquered the Punjab. No one who knew them could have supposed they would accept peacefully any settlement which cut their small community in two. Yet this is what they knew boundary line did, and on Aug. 16 over one and a half million found themselves suddenly cut off from the rest of their community. To the Sikhs this was political suicide, and, inflamed by what they had suffered in the North, they rose in their thousands and butchered.

Weld on Raw
BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY:

For that boundary line we were ultimately responsible and that raises the question: How far are we responsible for what followed? That we had to leave India as soon as we decently could go without saying and we might have done that even earlier in the case of the seven provinces with a stable Indian Governments. But the Punjab was different. It was not a Province to be cut in two like a Gordian knot in traditional Commando fashion. When I was in Lahore last April, tension was already extreme and the Province a smouldering volcano. Time was clearly needed to let passions cool. Instead we roused them to white heat by the boundary award. Surely we should have made some attempts, to secure the "political arrangements" to which Sir Cyril Cliffe, refers in the last paragraph of his award, deferring our departure until some sort of a stable Government could be set up on either side of whatever line was finally adopted. Whatever, the difficulties of this course, we should at least have been true to our hundred-year trust and not handed over millions

millions of helpless peasants, for whose welfare we were responsible, to anarchy and ruin.

PROBLEM OF REFUGEES:

Effects & Variation

Now out of that anarchy and ruin order has somehow to be evolved. The task is stupendous. Land will have to be found for thousands of refugee peasants, with an orderly settlement of each family on its allotment. Seed grain and bullocks in numbers will have to be provided, and quickly too if the spring harvest is to be sown in time. The land records, in which every man's property and rights are recorded, will have to be amended on a gigantic scale. The efficiency of a canal system which irrigates 15,000,000 acres will have to be ~~and~~ redisciplined, perhaps even reconstructed. For all this much new personnel will have to be found and trained and finance on the most generous scale provided out of depleted exchequers. These are some of the problems that will have to be faced, and in view of our ~~xx~~ share in the tragedy any help that may be asked should be freely given.

OCTOBER, 13: NO ROOM FOR MINORITIES :

BOMBAY, Oct. 11: "As soon as the League Ministry assumed office in the N.W.F. Province, a ~~x~~ rigorous censorship on news was carried out with the result that the outside world is in complete darkness about the happenings in the province." Mr. Girdharilal Puri Deputy Sepaker of the North West Frontier Province, said in a statement here today.

"Even telegrams sent by the Congress Parliamentary Secretary, L. Mehr Chand Khanna, to the Premier of India and Pakistan drawing their attention to this state of affairs were not allowed to pass," he added.

Mr. Puri was replying to Quid-i-Azam Jinnah's speech appearing this morning that the minorities did not give the Pakistan Government a chance to prove their bonafides. Mr. Puri gave "a few facts" regarding the "treat-

treatment meted out to non-Muslims " after the installation of the League Ministry so that the public could judge" how the Pakistan Government has utilized the time and chance they had to in still confidence in the minorities" and whether "there is any room left for the minorities in the NW.F.P."

Mr. Puri challenged Pakistan authorities "to prove a single act of dis-loyalty against the State committed by the minorities in N.W.F.P. ever since the transfer of power."

Minorities
in N.W.F.P.

Mr. Giridhari Lal Puri said in his statement: I have read Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah's speech as reported this morning in which he says: "I regret to say that minorities here did not give us a chance to prove our bonafides, nor they give us their wholehearted cooperation as citizens of Pakistan when the crisis suddenly overtook us". He characterised the exodus of Hindus "as part of a well organised plan to cripple Pakistan."

"I was in Peshawar till Sep. 26, 1947. I give below a few facts regarding the treatment meted out to non-Muslims and the attitude of the Government towards them after the League Ministry was installed in N.W.F.P. under orders of the Quaid-i-Azam, on Aug. 23, 1947.

Mr. Abdul Qayum, the Prime Minister, began propaganda wherein he accused the Indian Government and the East Punjab Government of having utterly failed to protect the Muslims. He threatened that his Government would not be able to protect the minorities in N.W.F.P. from tribal and local mass Muslim attacks in view of the ~~the~~ happenings in East Punjab. His speeches as reported in the Press and broadcast from the Pakistan Radio, were an invitation to tribesmen and local Leaguers to avenge East Punjab wrongs in NW.F.P.

THOUSANDS OF NON-MUSLIMS KILLED:

A deputation of Muslim Leaguers was sent to the

to the East Punjab by the League Premier. In a personal letter which he sent to the Nawab of Mamdot through the deputation, he said: " thousands of Pathans have been massacred in East Punjab." This allegation of his was broadcast from the Pakistan Radio. The deputation supported Khan Abdul Qayum Khan's allegation on their return. This aggravated the situation and resulted in traged acts of communal aggression at Haripur, Takhat Bai, Kohat, Peshawar City and Cantonment. Now-Shera, Khairabad, Lakki, Shiar Nawrang etc. In which thousands of non-muslims lost their lives, several hundred women and children were abducted, thousands were forcibly converted to Islam and property worth crores has been looted and burnt.

As soon as the League Ministry assumed office a rigorous censorship on news was carried out with a result that outside world is in complete darkness about the happenings in the province. Press messages have been either withheld or delayed for several days. This censorship continues upto date. Its rigour can be judged from the fact that even messages intimating news of deaths sent from the Frontier to near relatives outside the province have not allowed to pass. Private correspondence is censored. Even telegrams sent by the Congress Parliamentary Secretary L. Mehr Chand Khanna, to the Premiers of India and Pakistan drawing their attention to this state of affairs were not allowed to pass.

"On Aug. 26 over 400 Hindus and Sikhs were killed in Haripur, (a tehsil town in Hazara district with a population of several thousands non-Muslims). The part of Haripur town containing Hindu houses and shops was entirely burnt. Mr. Abdul Qayum told Hindus and Sikhs who waited on him when he went for a tour of Hazara district that he could not protect them. The Deputy Commissioner, Hazara, gave the Hindus and Sikhs four

Immunities in
N.W.F. & D.

four-days notice to leave the district either for Rawalpindi or for Kashmir. Over two thousands refugees living in Kakul camp Abbottabad, were removed to Wah camp in Campbellpur district, Punjab by Government orders and under Government escort. According to official figures only 97 Hindus and Sikhs are living in the entire Hazara district at their own risk now. Hazara had a population of over 80,000 Hindus and Sikhs in normal times who owned considerable land, business and property. The League claims cent per cent following in Hazara district. I have proof in my possession that some political agents have been directly inciting tribesmen by holding out to them all kinds of temptations to attack non-Muslims in the NWFP.

GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ATTACKED:

Non-Muslim Government servants who had volunteered to serve the Pakistan Government were brutally attacked in their houses in Civil Quarters on Sep. 7 in the presence military and the police. Sixty four of them were mercilessly done to death. Many of their women and children were abducted. All their worldly belongings were looted. All this happened under the very nose of the provincial authorities. This happened in Peshawar itself. These non-Muslim Government Servants bravely fought the rioters for over twelve hours. Their Muslim neighbours, who were also government servants, in most cases, helped the rioters by pointing out to them the Hindu houses. The Government, the military or the police did not go to their help all these twelve hours that they were under mob attack. The attitude of the provincial Government towards those who survived is extremely callous. They have been asked to state "yes" or "no" whether they want to serve the Provincial Government. This clearly shows that the Frontier Government does not want to retain the services of even a single one of them.

All peaceful and constitutional means of ventilating their grievances have been taken away from them. By the use of dictatorial powers the Quaid-i-Azam having installed

installed a Ministry which does not command a majority in the House. There does not appear to be any chance of the autumn session of the Assembly being called.

"Khan Abdul Qayum Khan has trampled under his feet civil liberty in every shape and form in the NWFP.

LIAQUAT ALI'S STATEMENT CONTRADICTED:

New Delhi Oct. 11: Mr. K.C. Neogy, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, Government of India, and Mr. Gopalswami Iyengar, Minister without portfolio, have issued the following statement:

We have been painfully surprised to read the statement issued by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Prime Minister of Pak. on 9th Oct., from Lahore in regard to the proceedings of the Conference between the representatives of the Pakistan and India, held at Lahore on 5th Oct. 1947.

We should like to make it clear, at the outset, that the account of the proceeding of the conference reported by the Associated Press of India, was not issued by us, nor was it inspired by us, as insinuated in the Press communique issued by the Principal Information Officer of the Pakistan Government. This, however, is not the main issue.

There are two fundamental mis-representations in the statement of the Pakistan Prime Minister. No one representing India has, at any time, expressly or by implication, attributed to the Pakistan Government any intention to ban the entry into that Dominion of Muslims from all part of the Indian Dominion. It is well known that the agreement reached between the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India for mass exchange of minority populations between the two Dominions has reference only to the province of East Punjab in the Indian Dominion and the Province of West Punjab in the Pakistan Dominion. It is also well understood, as indeed it was admitted by the Prime Minister of Pakistan at the conference on ~~11th~~ 5th Oct., that the North West Frontier Province is included in this agreement. The

Government's
decision
regarding
exchange
immigrants.

Imp

The representatives of the Government of India mentioned that they felt themselves bound to provide facilities for Muslims in the Delhi Province, who were anxious to move out to Pakistan. The only reference to the United Provinces in this context was as regards the East Punjab Muslims who are now refugees in the United Province and are definitely looking forward to evacuation to Pakistan. To say that "the Indian Ministers blandly proposed to include Muslims from Delhi Province and the Western District of U.P. in the evacuation programme" is wholly incorrect.

Minorities in India
Imp
It was never stated by the representatives of the Government of India that "almost all Muslims in Delhi province and the Western districts of U.P. desired to leave India". In fact, when he was asked whether Muslims in these areas who wished to migrate to Pakistan were to be denied admission therein, it was Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan himself who blandly replied that was not his idea, but that he did not expect the Government of India to provide special facilities for their evacuation, such as refugee specials, etc., and that should be let to reach Pakistan on their own in the ordinary way. Further, when the Prime Minister of Western Punjab, who was present at the conference, casually remarked that India was driving away Muslims, the representatives of the Government of India took sharp and immediate exception to his remark and stated categorically that India had not tried to drive away Muslim, was not doing it now and did not propose to do it in future. Despite our efforts and despite the fact that 80 per cent of India Muslims are living in peace and amity, some are waiting to leave from areas outside Punjab and there is no question of compelling any one to leave.

We deeply regret that any misunderstanding should arise between us and the Prime Minister of Pakistan over an issue of which there should be no difference of opinion. We should like to add that we greatly appreciated

appreciated the cordial manner in which the Prime Min. of Pakistan and the two Ministers of West Punjab carried on the discussions ~~for~~ at the conference and we took forward to a continuance of the same cordiality at future discussions.

NOVEMBER 5; League GUARDS RAID AMRITSAR VILLAGES:
SIMLA, Nov. 4: Several communal clashes are reported from some towns in Karnal District, says a communique issued by the Eastern Punjab Government today. In Kathal and Karnal a few Muslims were killed. A clash ~~and~~ between Muslims and non-Muslims refugees occurred in Panipat on Nov. 2, and resulted in casualties on both sides. Police opened fire killing six non-Muslims.

A picket of four foot constables was attacked by Muslims killing two at the spot. The other two are also missing and are believed killed. Arms and ammunition of these foot-constables were taken away by the Muslims.

Nine raids and incursions by Muslims assisted by armed Home Guards and Muslim League National Gurads from across the border, are reported from Amritsar district, the communique adds. A number of Sikhs have been injured as a result of these raids and the raiders have decamped with a large number of cattle.

Non-Muslim refugees from Sargoda and Layallpore complained of searches and abduction by Muslim troops in Pakistan. Large scale movement of refugees continues without interference. A number of Muslim women and children have been recovered in Amritsar, Hoshiarpur and other districts. Recoveries of looted property also continued.

PATHANS FIRE AT TRAIN:

Lahore, Nov. 3: "Further steps have been taken to establish cooperation between the police and the Military officers on both sides of the Indo-Pakistan border in Kasur sub-division of Lahore district, says a West Punjab Government's Press note today.

The Press note adds: "according to reports received

received on Oct. 2 & 3, Brigadier Sant Singh of the Indian Army helped in recovering 83 Muslims, including women and children from Moga Sub-division and conveying to Kasur. Major-Nagra, Commander of the Jats, at Khem Karan paid a friendly visit to the Assistant Superintendent of Police, in Kasur. The two are holding a joint enquiry into an incident of exchange of firing between the West Punjab police and Indian troops.

"A party of 22 sweepers who had left Phalia along with non-Muslim evacuees a few days earlier have returned and re-settled in their homes.

A regrettable incident took place in Sargodha during the week end when a party of Pathans stopped a train and fired at it. The escort of the train replied to the firing. In the exchange of shots, one soldier and twelve passengers were killed. The casualties on the side of raiders could not be ascertained. The train was pulled back to Bhulerwan".___API.

EXTRACT FROM THE FILE OF
" THE HINDUSTAN TIMES "

1947

TAKEN at the instance of S. Kirpal Singh
I/C Sikh History Research Department
Khalsa College Amritsar.

MARCH 4: THE PUNJAB CRISIS:

Sir Khizr Hyat Khan Tiwana's resignation has not come as a surprise. Many shrewd observers read into the Punjab Premier's statement announcing the release of Muslim League leaders a meaning beyond what it apparently conveyed. Sir Khizr Hyat and his Muslim colleagues of the Unionist Party have fallen victims to the Nazi technique of the Muslim League. It was perhaps inevitable that social, personal and political terrorization practised against them should tell on their resolve to uphold the coalition that had been governing the province since the last general election. Sir Khizr Hyat Khan is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, landlord of the province and since his land lies in the western districts he must have wondered whether his interest lay in fighting the fanatical elements that had swayed Muslim public opinion by appealing to religious sentiments. He has been opposed to the partition of the Punjab but not to Pakistan. Therefore, his coalition with the Congress and Panthic parties was not on a sound basis; it lacked even popular support because the character of the administration remained largely bureaucratic and did not react to the political ideology of the major partners in the coalition. There are some who think that British administrators have helped the League by precipitating a political struggle. Whether this is so or not, the fact remains that the administration has let down the Ministry.

According to the latest reports from Lahore, the Governor of the Punjab after having a talk with the Leader of the Opposition, the Khan of Mandot, and the leaders of the Congress and Panthic parties has called upon the League leaders to form a ministry. We hope the Governor

We hope the Governor did not attempt to drive a wedge between the Congress and the Panthic party. So far as these two groups are concerned their course is clear. If they wish to save the Punjab from a blatantly communal rule of which Sind and Bengal are having a bitter taste they must stand together. Should the Muslim League leaders of the Punjab wish to establish communal rule they should be allowed to try the experiment and face the prospect of open revolt in the areas where Sikhs and Hindus form a majority of the population. After all the League has shown the way in this direction and the administration of the Punjab has admitted defeat when confronted with such tactics. Master Tara Singh has recently proclaimed in unmistakable terms that there is no hope of a settlement between the Muslim League and the Sikhs in the Punjab. There is even lesser chance so far as the Congress is concerned, unless it be a part of an all-India agreement. The moment for a test of the strength and conviction of the minorities of the Punjab has arrived. They can make or mar their future according as they act jointly or severally. They can save something from the wreck, if they stand together and make sure that either the Punjab is a province of a united India or that their Punjab finds separate moorings. This issue has been brought to the forefront by the statement of Sir Khizr Hyat Khan justifying his decision to resign on the ground that the Punjab should have an opportunity of receiving sovereign power directly from the British people. It is for the Sikhs and Hindus of the Punjab to decide their own destiny and the future of their province.

MARCH 6: PUNJAB PORTENTS

The Punjab is in a state of ferment. The cause for the sudden deterioration in the situation is obscure. The true history of the downfall of the Khizr Hyat Khan Ministry may not be known for a long time to come. The facts

The facts are not easy to unravel and are certainly not apparent on the surface of the various statements that have been made by some of the actors in the drama. The Governor's decision to take the administration of the province directly into his own hands under Section 93 of the Act is obviously designed to give time to the League party to form its Ministry under ideal conditions. Ultimately for the Governor and the coterie of British officials who have a grip over the provincial administration, the Congress and the Panthic parties have seen through the game and have refused to play into their hands. What is more, the general mass of Hindus and Sikhs have reacted sharply to this move. They held peaceful demonstrations in Lahore to make it known that they would not be ruled by a communal ministry. What followed makes grim reading. The police were let loose on students and other demonstrators and casualties running into three figures were inflicted by firing. It could not be that tear gas stocks were exhausted; it could not be that the police were confronted with a situation uglier than they had handled during the 33 days that the civil disobedience movement of the Muslim League was said to have had "a tumultuous run".

*Punjab outburst of
March, 1947*

An explanation for this outburst of police violence has been given by our special correspondent who has pointed out that if the minorities started any civil disobedience movement "they would find the Punjab police and the magistracy much more intent on suppressing the Muslims during the recent movement." Reports of happenings in Lahore during the past two days and nights more than amply justify the prognostication. No inhibition seems now to keep the police or the magistracy in check. During the League movement there was no firing in Lahore. It was resorted to at Amritsar and ~~Amritsar~~ Ambala with one fatal casualty in ^{each} ~~each~~ case. The police fired in the

The police fired in the air at Jullundur. Now in less than 24 hours the police have inflicted in Lahore alone casualties which probably excel any inflicted on civilian crowds in the Punjab for many a long year. They did not even observe the normal instruction that firing must be directed below the knees. Many students received abdominal and kidney wounds. The former Finance Minister, Mr. Bhim Sen Sachar, has protested to the Governor against the method used by the police in dealing with Hindu and Sikh processionists. Even the ban on meetings has been reimposed. The minorities in the Punjab have rightly declared their determination not to submit to communal domination. They are fighting India's battle. The Council of Action headed by Master Tara Singh can rely on the country's full support.

MARCH 7: LONDON, March 6. __Leader of the opposition Mr. Winston Churchill, suggested that the problem of India should be handed to the United Nations for solution when he opened the second day of the India debate in the House of Commons today. Mr. Churchill was greeted with a roar of Opposition cheers and the House was again crowded in every part.

Recalling that the Government had adopted this course with Palestine, Mr. Churchill asked "Is it as difficult to resist with the feeling that the same train of reasoning applies on a far greater scale and with much greater force to India?" Having failed to its Indian policy, was not the Government bound in honour, decency and commonsense, to seek the aid of a wider instrument and authority, he asked.

Speaking immediately after Mr. Churchill, the Minister of Defence, Mr. A.V. Alexander, declared: "History may record that Mr. Churchill's speech this afternoon has been the principal factor in preventing the sides coming together."

Interim Movement

In the course of his speech, Mr. Churchill described the Government headed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as a "complete disaster." He declared it was a mistake to entrust the Government of India to a leader of Caste Hindus, Pandit Nehru.

Regretting that no statement had been made, as to the reasons for the resignation of the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, Mr. Churchill said: "It is an unwholesome way of conducting public affairs in time of peace that a Minister or a Viceroy should be dismissed or should resign and not feel it necessary to self-respect to explain to the nation the reason of the departure."

MARCH 13: ATTEMPT TO HOLD UP FRONTIER MAIL
NEAR PESHAWAR.

(From Our Correspondent)

PESHAWAR, March 12. — The District Magistrate of Peshawar pleaded in vain for four hours on Monday with a crowd to clear the railway line near Cunningham Park, says a 'communique' issued by the M.W.F.P. Government.

The crowd blocked the line and tampered with the track and the Down Frontier Mail had to return to Peshawar Cantonment station. Despite repeated warnings to disperse, the crowd advanced, stoning the police and the military guards. The troops are now standing by in the City Kotwali. A 12-hour curfew has been imposed in the city for three days.

All telegraphs and telephone wires leading out of Peshawar were cut on Sunday night and land communications have not been yet restored. In Hazara District one person was killed and two places of worship were burnt. Troops are also standing by in Abbottabad and Haripur.

Seventeen stabbing cases took place in Peshawar city in the afternoon, three of which proved fatal. An assistant sub-Inspector of police, who was fired at is lying in a precarious condition in hospital.

It is reported

It is reported Mr. Nur Illahi, Advocate, was stabbed while attempting to rescue some Hindu girls from Goondas. Many other Muslims braved the wrath of goondas and received minor injuries while protecting Hindus and Sikhs. Mr. Nur Illahi is in hospital.

Stabbing incidents have also been reported from Pabbi and Nowshera Kalan. A strong force of Frontier Constabulary has been dispatched to deal with the ^{situation} ~~situation~~.

THE PUNJAB TRAGEDY

Since the resignation of the Khizr Ministry, the Punjab has been the scene of communal rioting reminiscent of Bengal and Bihar. In Amritsar, Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi, destruction of life and property has been heavy. Though disturbances have lasted ten days and situation seems to be under control in the urban areas, the destructive movement is reported to be spreading in the rural parts of Western Punjab and the entire administration may break down leaving the province in the throes of a civil war.

Imp There is no doubt that these disturbances are wholly political in character. We do not know whether these who were responsible for upsetting the Coalition Ministry expected this terrible sequel. But they cannot escape responsibility for it. If it is true that the Governor of the Punjab put pressure on Malik Khizr Hyat Khan to make way for the Muslim League, he should be aghast at the consequences of his action. As The Times says, "The Punjab dis-orders are a terrible warning of the dangers to public order inseparable from any attempt to enforce communal dictatorship by un-constitutional agitation." If the leaders of the Muslim League thought that they could seize power by force, they must have been disillusioned. One of the most reprehensible features of these disturbances is the open partisanship of Officials. Our Special Correspondent has given typical instances

typical instances of the way in which responsible police officials in Lahore participated in the rioting on March 5. In many places, members of the National Muslim Guards are reported to have been found in police uniform and armed.

Though the first duty of the Section 93 administration in the Punjab is to restore order by firm police and military action, it is obvious that that will not be sufficient to put down the movement. Drastic political action is necessary if these disturbances are to be prevented from spreading all over the province. Unless popular Government can be restored in some form, the Punjab will have to pass under martial law. A purely communal ministry is out of the question. A coalition of all parties is particularly ruled out by the Muslim League's insistence on Pakistan. We are, therefore, driven to the conclusion that the only way to restore peace in the Punjab is to devise separate popular administrations for the Muslim and non-Muslim parts of the province. It need not involve any final decision on the issue of partition. There is also no need for any parliamentary or other legislation. The terms of Section 93 are broad enough to cover this case. It is provided that a proclamation under Section 93 "may contain such incidental and consequential provisions as may appear to the Governor to be necessary or desirable for giving effect to the objects of the proclamation, including provision for suspending in whole or in part the operation of any provision of this Act relating to any provincial body or authority." It is open to the Governor to constitute two sets of ministers for the two parts of the province and reorganize the police and administrative staff in such manner as to ensure popular support to the Government. Even without Section 93, it is possible to adopt some such arrangement

arrangement by convention if all the political parties of the province agree to it. There seems no escape from the fact that the Punjab as a single political and administrative unit cannot survive and that partition will have to be recognized de facto. It will make for peace on both sides of the line of demarcation, while enabling the Nawab of Mandot to form unencumbered the Ministry he is hankering after and at the same time giving the Hindu-Sikh area the only administration it will tolerate under existing circumstances. When the League started the campaign to upset the Coalition Ministry, it deliberately courted the present developments. It put on the false mantle of democracy. The Times has rigidly remarked: The danger is no way lessened if the agitation claims to be based on democratic principles. It is a curious feature of the campaign conducted in the Punjab by the Muslim League that a 56 per cent Muslim majority in the province enables it to invoke those principles while it fiercely controverts them in other parts of India. No Muslim party can form a ministry unless it secures Sikh or Hindu support." Such support can be secured only by abandoning the demand for Pakistan.

MARCH 15: POLICE OFFICERS IMPLICATED IN
PUNJAB DISTURBANCES.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

✓ LAHORE, March 14. — The North Western Punjab, particularly the area round Rawalpindi Multan, is a blazing inferno of flames and has been reduced to shambles.

This is the picture which has begun to emerge from reports of the Punjab leaders who toured this area of the land of five rivers with Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister in the Interim Government, as well as from the heart-rending accounts of refugees who are pouring into Lahore.

I have had lengthy interviews with all the Punjab leaders who accompanied the Defence Minister in his tour, particularly, Seth Sudarshan M.L.A. Deputy Leader of the Congress Party Dr. Gopichand Bhargava, Sardar Swaran Singh and with the Defence Minister himself.

POLICE PLAYED DIRTY ROLE.

From these accounts, a terrible picture of the ordeal, through which the Punjab has been passing, has begun to emerge as a connected whole. It is a picture too grim and too horrible to contemplate without any relief whatsoever in which the chief culprits appear to be not only the mobs of Muslim hooligans but the Muslim members of the Punjab police force. Today there is one cry which is on the lips of every Hindu and every Sikh in this area of the Punjab: "Remove the police force and we shall be able to defend ourselves better."

Giving the impressions of his tour, Seth Sudarshan said to me: "We have got hold of a very sensational evidence which improves beyond any shadow of doubt that the present massacre of Hindus and the Sikhs in the Punjab has been planned and directed by Muslim police officers from their headquarters as well as the Muslim tehsildars and other village officials."

The proof of this lies in the fact that both in Rawalpindi and in Multan the houses and shops of the Hindus and Sikhs which have been most severely burnt, have been those in the vicinity of the police stations.

INSTIGATION FROM THE POLICE: Refugees from Rawalpindi and from Multan told me, that they themselves saw Muslim sub-Inspectors of police urging mobs to pour petrol on houses of Hindus and Sikhs and burn them.

One Muslim police officer ~~xxxxxxxx~~ in Multan is stated to have brought camels from the countryside to carry away the looted properties from wrecked houses of Hindus.

BRUTALITY LET LOOSE: Before the stories related by these refugees ^y anything which happened in East Bengal

East Bengal or in Bihar just pales into insignificance.

In Multan for example, a Hindu hotel was burnt and all women there were brutally raped and afterwards murdered.

SICK IN HOSPITAL, BURNT ALIVE:

The depth of degradation to which mob violence descended in Multan is shown by the fact that a mob invaded the Tuberculo-sis Hospital, near Delhi Gate, and, after isolating the Muslim patients and taking them away burnt all non-Muslim patients.

Seth Sudarshan told me that nearly 10,000 Sikh refugees from the adjoining countryside are at present being looked after in Rawalpindi by the military authorities. Most of these refugees have been brutally assaulted their hair cut and their beards shaved. Women had been raped, forcibly converted and married to Muslims.

VILLAGES STILL BURNING

About 20 villages around Rawalpindi are still reported to be ablaze. In Multan, 13 temples have been completely burnt, about onethousand houses and shops have been reduced to cinders or thoroughly looted while the number of killed is officially stated to be 250.

Unofficial estimates of the dead, however, are in the neighbourhood of 500.

In Murree, the damage to property is estimated at several crores of rupees. No reliable estimate is yet available either of the casualties or of the damage to property in the rural areas.

MARCH 19:

PUNJAB LESSON

Pandit Nehru's statement made at a Press conference at the end of his three-day tour of the riot-affected areas of the Punjab is re-assuring. According to him, the situation in the province is more or less under control and so far as he could see the military were acting efficiently and with rapidity. It was fortunate that the aid

aid of the military was called in by the civil authorities. The minorities had lost faith in the police force not so much because it is predominantly Muslim in composition but because of the many instances in which it failed to afford protection and even abetted the law-breakers. A responsible leader like Master Tara Singh has stated that the disturbances were pre-planned and that the Muslim members of the Punjab police had taken part in them in many areas. Equally significant is Pandit Nehru's remark that happenings in the Punjab were intimately connected with political affairs. We have the personal testimony of Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, President of the Provincial Congress Committee, that when a mob in Multan recognized him they took him to the house of a League leader and tried to intimidate him into signing the League pledge.

Some League leaders are known to have boasted that their plans had worked so well that they had called the Sikh bluff. As pointed out by the head of the Interim Government, if politics are to be conducted in this way, they would cease to be politics and would become some kind of ~~of~~ jungle warfare. They will only provoke reprisals and help to keep up the vicious circle. There is no doubt that the outburst of violence was a part of the League campaign to instal itself in power. Contrast the way in which Congress leaders acted in Bihar. The moment the conflagration started Pandit Nehru, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and the provincial President and Premier jumped into it and within a week extinguished it. No such action was taken by the League leaders in the Punjab. Instead, Mr. Daultana, while the Punjab was burning, went all the way to Bombay to get directives from Mr. Jinnah. He returned to Lahore after the communal fire had consumed thousands of houses and hundreds of human beings in the Muslim majority areas of the province and fanatics had indulged in abduction of women, rape and

rape and forcible conversion.

Mr. Jinnah wants the Muslim League to render full assistance to the administration to bring about normal conditions and has enjoined on his followers that they should consider protection of minorities a sacred trust. If that is how Mr. Jinnah feels, he should sack the entire Muslim League leadership in the Punjab for having betrayed the sacred trust. If not, the so-called directive becomes only an eyewash. More aptly and more sincerely Pandit Nehru has advised the Punjabis to learn from the hard lesson and not to lose themselves "in a sea of hatred and reprisal which can only lead to mutual destruction and infamy." An example of the danger of infamy is provided by the activities of certain diehards in Britain who have powerful propaganda machinery at their back for misleading world opinion. Instead of confessing with shame that the Punjab blood-bath is the direct result of the policy that was followed while Mr. Amery presided over the India Office, several Conservative members, headed by Mr. Richard Butler, raised much dust in the House of Commons on Monday regarding the Punjab disturbances. Captain Gommans asked why British troops were used in Amritsar and Mr. Butler suggested that it was irresponsible to talk of clearing out when there was no responsible Government in sight in the Punjab. Mr. Henderson, we are glad, affectively met the barrage of questions and pointed out that the troops which were most easily available at the time were employed. It was not a case of using British troops alone. In fact, a majority of the troops used in the Punjab, as was also the case in Bihar and Bengal, were Indian. It is well known that forces earmarked for internal security are posted at various stations. They consist of both Indian and British Units. So long as India pays for British troops they must be available

available for use. Indian opinion has for long demanded the immediate withdrawal of the British troops from India. But while they are paid by the Indian ex-chequer they must perform duties allotted to them. There is perhaps some philosophic justice in the British troops helping to clear some of the mess which the traditional British policy of the divide and rule has created. The Under Secretary of States also rejected the Conservative argument that troops had been used to coerce any community. They were, he said, used against law-breakers. The question is not intelligible unless the die-hards wanted the majority community to have a free hand in wiping out the minorities.

The Punjab disturbances mark the culmination of the irresponsible politics which the Muslim League has been pursuing for sometime. If the League is honest about the need for peaceful settlement, it can be achieved only by seat-ing round a table with leaders of other parties. There is the invitation of the Congress Working Committee. But neither time nor the country will wait in-definitely on Mr. Jinnah's convenience.

MARCH 22: COMMUNAL RIOTS AND COMPENSATION.

The Government of the Punjab, by promulgating the Punjab disturbed areas Act of 1947, has taken a drastic step arising from the widespread disturbances that have disgraced that pro-vince since the beginning of this month. No one will say that this step was not necessary for that the situation could have been brought under control by normal police action. It must, however, be remarked that this act gives power to "any Magistrate and any police officer not below the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector to fire upon or otherwise use force even to the causing of death against any person," who may be considered by him as acting in contravention of any law or order for the time being in force in a disturbed area. In the Punjab,

In the Punjab complicity of the police in the riots has been alleged in many places and this provision giving the lower police officials the power of life and death may be abused. It has certainly caused serious misgivings among the minority community as was pointed out by Master Tara Singh at a Press Conference in New Delhi on Friday.

While it is necessary to take all possible action to prevent and punish murder and arson, the question of compensating those who suffered from communal rioting is no less important. The worst effect of rioting are felt by the unfortunate dependents of bread-winners who are killed and by families whose property has been lost. It is possible for the State to compensate them. During the war, it was considered to be the duty of every State to compensate nationals who suffered from enemy action. The Government of India started a war risks insurance fund to insure traders and property-holders against loss in the event of enemy bombing or invasion. Luckily there was no need to pay considerable sum out of the funds collected. We think it but just and reasonable that the balance in this fund should be used to compensate the victims of rioting in Calcutta, Noakhali, Bihar and the Punjab. If it is considered that the responsibility for compensation should rest with Provincial Governments, the Government of India should enact the necessary legislation making it obligatory on the part of every Provincial Government to compensate the victims of communal rioting within the province.

While it may be hoped that communal frenzy will die out in course of time, it is certainly wise to prepare for its recurrence during the next two or three years till political stability and economic equilibrium are achieved. It is, therefore, necessary that the State should undertake a positive liability for those who may have to suffer owing to its outbreaks. This, as has been already indicated can be done in two ways. Either the liability may be

may be undertaken simply through a legislative provision and machinery created for assessment of compensation. In practice, however, it may not be easy to verify the truth of claims relating to movable property, stock in trade, etc. It may, therefore, be wiser to institute a fund for covering the risks of communal rioting on the model of the war risks insurance fund. A small insurance premium may be levied from all persons who wish to be compensated if rioting occurs. It should be the duty of the Provincial Government, if the fund is organized on a provincial basis and of the Government of India, if it is to be on all-India basis, to meet the deficiency in the fund if compensation claims total up to a larger amount than the balance of the fund at any time. The establishment of the principle of compulsory compensation for riot victims is particularly necessary when a ministry rests on the support of a community which is responsible for the rioting. If the ministry and the officials know that heavy compensation will have to be paid, they are not likely to be carried away by their communal predilections. In the conditions of India, we cannot conceive of a more fundamental right for the minorities than the right to be fully protected against loss which may occur during disturbances they have not caused or provoked. Thus principle of compensation, both as a deterrent to communal rioting and as justice towards its victims when it unfortunately takes place, deserves immediate acceptance. Under the Government of India Act of 1935, the Central Legislature has a right to legislate upon this matter under item 14 of the concurrent list. If there is any doubt about the matter, the Interim Government should request the Governor-General to proclaim an emergency under Section 102 so that a law which is binding on the Provincial Governments, Central legislation is necessary because for obvious reasons many of the Provincial Governments cannot be expected to take the initiative.

March 22: LOOTING WENT ON IN PRESENCE OF POLICE:

(By Our Special Correspondent)

NEW DELHI, Friday. — Master Tara Singh, who is here on a brief visit, stated at a Press conference this evening that the Punjab police could be written off because it was divided into communal compartments. He considered that the drastic ordinance passed by the Governor authorising assistant sub-Inspector \times of police to shoot at sight was definitely aimed against Hindus and Sikhs. He would not give this power, he said, to the police but only to the military because the soldiers had not yet been demoralized.

Master Tara Singh attributed the carange witnessed in the Punjab to the fact that there had been virutal Muslim rule in the province for the last ten years with the result that most of the services and key posts had passed into the hands of Muslims, and the Sikhs and the Hhindus particularly those in services had been thereby demoralized.

In the circumstances, there were only two solutions for the Punjab situation. The first was that the Punjab Legislature should be reconstituted giving Sikhs and Hindus 30 per cent representation each and the Muslims the remaining 40 per cent. And, secondly, if the existing composition was not to be changed, then the Premier of the Punjab should be either a Sikh or a Hindu and the portfolio for Law and Order should also be held by either a Sikh or a Hindus so that communal disproportion in the police force might be set right and the force reorganized.

On no other terms would he and his party agree to the formation of a Ministry in the Punjab. They would indeed resist a League Ministry with all available resources. He would prefer Section 93 rule to continue because that would not worsen which it would if the Muslim League were to be put in possession of power.

DIAGNOSIS OF SITUATION: Master Tara Singh's diagnosis of the Punjab disturbances is that the Muslim had the impression every where that they could kill and loot as they liked and would not be punished for it. The police had the order not to fire at Muslim mobs and not to charge them with lathis during the 33 days of the League movement. This order encouraged rioters and the communal-minded police force to attack the minorities. He held the opinion that the processions which the Muslim League took out could have been stopped without difficulty if the authorities had resorted to lathi charge.

Asked whether he favoured partition of the Punjab Master Tara Singh said that he would favour division provided the major parts of the Sikh community remained in one province and no single community in such a province had a majority over the other two. Master Tara Singh totally denied the report published in certain Muslim League papers that he had headed a procession in Lahore holding a naked sword.

He remarked: "I never unsheathed my sword fully. If I do I cannot take it back without some blood. If I show my sword I draw only half."

Master Tara Singh felt that swords were not of much use as a weapon of offence or defence to the face of spears which were in the possession of people in thousands.

Amritsar happenings: Master Tara Singh gave a detailed account of the personal impression of what happened in Amritsar. He said that for the first two days the Muslims freely set fire and looted Hindu and Sikh shops and houses. Defiance of the curfew order by the Muslims stopped only when the British troops arrived. The Indian troops in Amritsar were not used probably because they were Hindus. He saw Mr. Jenkins, D.I.G., C.I.D., pass in a car while looting was going on and the

and the officer took no notice of it.

Master Tara Singh said that Hindu and Sikh shops were looted in Amritsar in the presence of the police while the Hindus and Sikhs looted Muslim shops only when the police was absent. The riots were certainly preplanned locally even if the Provincial Muslim League leaders were not aware of them. He said that the information he had received from western district was that certain villages were entirely wiped off and their inhabitants butchered. He estimated that the casualties of Hindus and Sikhs killed could not be less than 4,000 (not officially confirmed). He charged the authorities with wilful neglect of their duty.

COMMUNALISM IN POLICE: The A.P.I. adds: Master Tara Singh said that the Punjab Disturbed Areas Act had been enacted too late. "Probably it has been promulgated to prevent retaliation."

He was anxious that the power to shoot at sight should be given only to the military. "The Punjab police is finished. It is divided into communal compartments. At one place at Rawlapindi the Deputy Commissioner of Police complained that the policemen~~s~~ themselves raised slogans like Pakistan Zindabad. The Muslims are in overwhelming numbers in the police—it is said they are about 90 per cent. Police does nothing against Muslims; it does much more against Hindus and Sikhs."

Eye-witness Account: Giving a detailed eye-witness account of the disturbances in Amritsar, he said that on the night of March 5, Muslims took out a procession to the beating of drums and although the police were with them no action was taken. He approached the Deputy Commissioner for the despatch of the military but he was informed that the military could not enter the city at night, although a company of troops was encamped in front of the Kotwali in the heart of the city.

On the sixth, shops in the main bazar were being

On the sixth, shops in the main bazar were being set on fire and looted by unarmed mobs but still no action was taken. He saw shops being looted about 100 yards from the kotwali by an unarmed Muslim mob. On the 7th he again saw Muslim looting shops and approached the police fruitlessly on two occasions. On the third occasion he approached an English officer, who ordered a dozen policemen to intervene and they dispersed the mob by firing 24 rounds. He was told that one man was wounded by the firing but this was doubtful. This was first time the police had opened fire.

At one place, said Master Tara Singh, he saw a shop being looted by Hindus and Sikhs. At least for more than 24 hours Muslims had a free hand and on the 6th Hindus and Sikhs also began to retaliate. British troops entered the city on the 7th and the curfew order were enforced.

RIOT CASUALTIES: Spears were freely used in Amritsar. There were at least 10,000 spears with Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs. He estimated that in Rawalpindi, Attock and Jhelum districts not less than 4,000 Hindus and Sikhs were killed, (Not officially confirmed) In several xx villages in Rawalpindi district almost all the inhabitants had been butchered. In one thana alone not less than 800 (not officially confirmed) people were said to have been killed.

The "wilful neglect" of the police, he said, might be due to the fact that they were demoralized by the 34-day agitation of the Muslim League. They were under the impression that their duty was to do nothing. There were orders to them that they should do nothing. A Sikh police constable was murdered and an English Superintendent of Police badly injured in Amritsar by the mob, but still no action was taken. One can think further that all these riots in the Western Punjab were due to the impression among rioters that they would not be

would not be punished.

Master Tara Singh said he had come to Delhi to consult his friends. He would remain in touch with Sardar Baldev Singh, Defence Minister, and other Sikh leaders.

MARCH 23:

THE DESERTED VILLAGES:
(From Our Special Correspondent)

RAWALPINDI, March 22. — North-Western Punjab today presents a grim and ghastly spectacle from the air. As the plane flies over this fertile area, intersected by innumerable rivers, rivulets, streams and canals, one sees an unbroken succession of completely gutted villages forming a monstrously macabre contrast to the surrounding country-side, which in these days, just before the harvest, looks like a lovely green carpet.

Travelling by air from Lahore to Rawalpindi, I saw village after village completely burnt out besides others which had been partly destroyed. Then there were scores of villages outside one's view a great majority of whom have suffered similar damage.

from the air, these wrecked homes of numerous peasants just seemed like ugly scars on the face of the punjab and at first one found it almost impossible to grasp the full magnitude of the tragedy. Only a few days ago these empty shells of houses were full of men and women who lived a normal life. Now one could see here and there in these wrecks of houses minute specks of human forms, perhaps trying to salvage what little was left of their belongings.

One could picture what must have happened in these villages, the isolated self-sufficing units of humanity, almost cut off from the rest of the world through lack of communications. One realised what ghastly scenes of murder arson, rape and other primitive cruelties these villages must have suffered and one could not help wondering whether those whose irresponsible propaganda had provoked this

provoked this "massacre of the innocents" were now satisfied with the results which had logically followed from very reliable sources here.

There can be no question that the rural areas round Rawalpindi have witnessed a bloodbath without parallel since the Middle Ages. For example a police sub-Inspector in charge of a small village thana near Rawalpindi, told me that in his areas alone the number of persons killed exceeded 500.

In addition, it is said that nearly 100,000 people have been rendered homeless. The number of refugees from the countryside who have taken shelter in Rawalpindi city, as well as in Gujjar Khan, another important town of the district, is now estimated to have risen to well over 30,000.

Nearly 14,000 refugees from the surrounding rural areas, who are crowding Rawalpindi today, make this city, lying at the foot of the Himalayas, a heart-rending sight even though, compared with Amritsar or Multan, it has suffered little material damage. Only 100 shops and houses have been burnt in the city proper, thanks to the heroic defence put up by its own citizens. But the surrounding areas where the minority communities formed less than 20 per cent. of the population, have been completely devastated. Today I visited a number of refugee camps, which have been set up in the city both by the military and by other civilian authorities, and sights of misery and horror were seen.

Officials lead rioters:

Dozen of weeping Sikh refugees told me with what utter probarity their hair were cut and beards shaved. They were forced to recite kalma to save their lives. They narrated how village lambardars, zaildars and other police and Government officials had led riotous mobs against the minority communities.

Forcible conversion: They told me how their sister mothers and daughters were raped, abducted, forcibly converted and married to members of the majority community.

Today there is one cry on the lips of these wretched victims of most horrible atrocities : "Get back our sisters, mothers and wives."

There is hardly a complete family in any of these camps, most families having a number of members missing.

Here and there one comes across an individual who is the sole survivor in his village. I have heard tales stranger than fiction.

VILLAGERS BURNT ALIVE: I heard how all members of the minorities communities, including women and children in a particular village, were locked in a single house which was set fire too. All of them were roasted alive.

You hear how mobs beheaded children in front of their parents, girls hardly 11 or 12 years of age were raped in broad day-light before assembled crowds and how those trying to escape from fire enveloping their homes were bodily lifted and thrown back into the roaring flames.

Red Cross Relief Workers, who had been to adjoining villages, told me how they collected hundreds of mutilated corpses from each village and had them cremated.

MAY 3: LEAGUE AGITATION DIRECTED AGAINST HINDUS AND SIKHS
(FROM A CORRESPONDENT)

PESHAWAR , May 2 : As a result of the Muslim League's communal propaganda the minority communities in the Frontier Province had suffered enormously, hundreds having been murdered, many thousands converted and property worth crores of rupees having been burnt or looted, said a memorandum presented to the Viceroy on behalf of the Hindu and Sikh public bodies of the province during the Viceroy visit here a few days ago.

The representation, while declaring its support to the Ministry, says that the civil services in many

in many places had not been co-operating with the Ministry and hence the culprits were never brought to book while innocents belonging to the minority communities were arrested and unjustly punished. The memorandum urges the posting of adequate military forces in the disturbed areas, appointment of impartial district and police officers and giving severe punishment to the offenders.

The following is the text of the memorandum:-

"As a sequel to the Direct Action campaign launched by the Muslim League in Calcutta last year, and its aftermath, Muslim League leaders of this province have been carrying on a most virulent type of communal propaganda against the Frontier minority communities, with the result that woeful incidents of murders, murderous assaults, forcible conversions, arson and loot, involved tremendous loss of life and property, and acute physical and mental agony to the innocent victims have taken place at different places in the province since October 1, 1946.

Over 500 Murdered: "According to conservative estimated the number of minority community members murdered is about 500, of those stabbed and wounded about 150, and of those forcibly converted about 4,000. Nearly 50 places of worship have been burnt, as also 1,500 houses and shops. Property worth crores of rupees of the minority community members has been burnt, looted or destroyed.

"The minority community residents of this province feel that if the communal propaganda carried on by the Muslim Leaguers is not effectively checked by the Govt. more tremendous loss of life and property is seriously apprehended. Already a large number of members of the minorities communities have left the province owing to a feeling of extreme insecurity under the present conditions created by the Muslim League's communal agitation. This

This continuing exodus of minorities is fraught with disastrous consequences.

TRADE PARALYSED: "Since March 10, normal life and trade in Peshawar have been almost paralysed. For ^{ten} ~~then~~ days at a stretch all Hindu and Sikh residents of Peshawar remained confined to their houses for fear of being stabbed, shot or murdered by Muslim Leaguers in spite of the Ministry's solicitude to help them.

"The minority communities have fully confidence in the present Ministry which has been doing its utmost to give them protection, but it is an open secret that a preponderating element in the Services does not co-operate with the Ministry in carrying out its policy effectively.

"It is patent though extremely deplorable fact that very few culprits who inflict loss of life and property on minority community members are apprehended and brought to book. On the other hand, when a member of either of the minority communities exercises his right of private self-defence against heavy odds, he is at once proceeded against with a vengeance.

MINISTRY'S POSITION SOUND:

"The present agitation carried on by the Leaguers is in fact not anti-Ministry, but anti-Hindu and anti-Sikh. The present Ministry is in office on account of the confidence that it enjoys of the majority of Muslim members in the Legislature. Even if the 11 Hindu and Sikh members of the Legislature were to withdraw their support, the Ministry could continue in office, as it would still have the confidence of 21 Muslim members, in the Legislature. The very fact that not a single act of violence has been committed on any Muslim supporter of the Ministry, shows that the whole agitation is in fact anti-Hindu and anti-Sikh, though it has been shown in the false garb of anti-Ministry agitation.

"The free access to the tribal tracts enjoyed by the Muslim League leaders and workers during the past ten months, and the communal propaganda carried on by them there against the minority communities have resulted in the recent tragic happenings in the district of Dera Ismail Khan. Unless immediate and effective steps are taken to put a check on the activities of the Muslim Leaguers in the tribal territory, a repetition of the grave happenings in Dera Ismail Khan district is feared in other parts of the province.

MORE MILITARY FORCES URGED: "In view of the facts herein submitted, your Excellency's memorialists pray that in order to restore confidence and to attain normal and peaceful conditions in this province the following measures may kindly be taken:—

"(a) Thorough investigation of all offences affecting life and property by impartial officers of approved integrity.

"(b) Condign punishment to persons who may be found guilty.

"(c) Imposition of collective fines in areas wherein murders, arson and loot have taken place and miscreants cannot be traced.

"(d) Arrangements for adequate military forces to be placed at the disposal of the civil authorities for quelling disturbances and keeping order.

"(e) Posting of such impartial district and police officers as may command the confidence of the minorities."

The memorandum was signed by Sardar Partap Singh, M.L.A., R.B. Dina Nath, L. Gulab Rai, L. Har Narain, G.L. Salwan, L. Lachman Das Duggal and S. Prem Singh.

JUNE 20; SIKHS FACING EXTINCTION:

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Master Tara Singh in a statement in New Delhi, on ~~Tuesday~~ Thursday declared that "under the communal decision of H.M.G. the Sikhs are in the greatest danger of communal slavery or total extinction." The Muslims, he pointed out,

would get Pakistan which would be bigger than their share in the whole of India according to population basis while the Hindus would get the rest of India.

Master Tara Singh added: "But as regards the Sikhs they were in danger of being divided into two parts." Threats are being held out in certain quarters to deprive them even of the weightage which they enjoy at present. The Muslims preferred Pakistan to weightage. They were successful in securing what they preferred.

"But the position of the Sikhs will become more precarious than it is under the present condition. They may be deprived of their weightage and, in addition, may lose their solidarity as they have been given no power in the constitution-making in either of the two Constituent Assemblies even in matters involving major communal issues.

GAIN IS ONLY NEGATIVE: "The Sikh community has been thrown, bound and foot, at the mercy of others. What do the Sikhs gain in lieu of these losses? It may be said that a portion of them is saved from Pakistan but even this gain is only negative. But this cannot satisfy the Sikhs whose very existence is at stake.

"My only hope is that all is not lost yet. The boundary commission may maintain our solidarity and entity but the situation is so precarious that we cannot sit unconcerned over the sentence which may soon be passed over us.

"The Sikhs must immediately mobilize public opinion and arrive at a decision with regard to the future policy and programme. But processions and public meetings have been banned under the cloak of the Public Safety Act even in those portions of the Punjab where there has been no major communal trouble." —

Master Tara Singh referred to rumours that portions of the Punjab containing Nankana Sahib might go into Pakistan and ^{and} that the Sikhs must "resist such a terrible proposal."

He requested the Punjab Government to lift the ban on Public meetings held to protest against any such proposals in Sikh villages.

Advocating migration of the Sikh population from the West Punjab to the East Punjab, Master Tara Singh stated that exchange of population was necessary to maintain "our integrity and peace of the province. It may not be practicable in the case of the Hindus and Muslims, for it would involve crores of people with varying languages, customs, mood of living, food, climate etc. But in the case of the Sikhs no such difficulty exists. It will not be difficult at all, provided the Eastern Punjab contains sufficient ^{land} and other property to facilitate an exchange of population." _____ API.

SEPTEMBER 7:

ORIGIN OF THE RIOTS.

(By Our Special Representative)

The Bihar tragedy, following the Calcutta killings, was exploited by the Muslim League for political ends. Refugees and sufferers and even the skulls of the dead were taken to the Punjab and the N.W.F.P. and the feelings of the masses were aroused against Hindus and Sikhs. The communal orgy last March caused untold losses to Hindus and Sikhs. To make matters worst the League leaders and the Muslim Press boasted that they had taught the minorities a lesson and called the sikh bluff.

However, nothing untoward happened for four months. But tension grew as refugees poured into towns and the countryside in East Punjab. The majority of those who had ~~six~~ colonized Crown lands in West Punjab were from the Eastern Districts what had retained their families ties. The tale of horror they brought stirred the worst passions and the spirit of vengeance among their relatives and friends, who began to look for an opportunity to retaliate.

The decision to divide the Punjab, the appointment of the Boundary Commission and the uncertainty about where

.....about where the boundary line would be drawn further un-settled peoples minds.

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The Sikh leaders who had formerly disappeared of their following seized this opportunity to play up the atrocities and to instil into the people the belief that the Sikhs would never be safe in Pakistan and that for the sake of self-preservation they must all live in the central districts, if necessary, by asking the Muslim to move to Western dsitriacts. But the first blow was struck by the Muslims in Amritsar district and that left loose the forces which were until then a check. The change over of officers on August 15 helped in the spread of the fire.

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Many Hindu and Sikh officers who came over to East Punjab had seen their families murdered in cold blood and their property looted. They had seen Muslim Magistracy and police aid and abet the assassins and the looters. So when the trouble started in East Punjab, instead of controlling it, they sat back in their chairs and in some cases even abeted the wrong doers.

As far the others the bitterness stored over many years on account of communal preferment for Muslims in the Punjab made them less vigilant than they should have been. Practically throughout their ^{Career} ~~career~~ they had seen less competnet Muslims being appointed to Government jobs in preference to Hindus and Sikhs and had suffered the ignomy of supersession and the agony of frustration.

On the other hand, the Muslims officials felt that Islam had been their sheet - anchor, that but for communal reservation in services they would not have shared in the loaves and fishes of office. Suffering from an inferiority complex, they thought that their safety and that of their children lay in having a separate Muslim State in which

in which they would not have to compete with the Hindus for positions of power and influence. It was natural for such officials to think in terms of wiping out the minorities in their State.

* * * * *

Little did the British Government or Mr. Jinnah realize that by the policy of communal reservations in services they were rearing a greater monster than even separate electorates. Muslim League politicians were pleasantly surprised to find their best supporters among Government Officials. A large part of the credit for the victory of the Muslim League at the polls was due in fact to Muslim Officials of the Government who not only canvassed votes for them but often tampered with ballot papers and ballot boxes.

These officials indeed established Pakistan in every department of the State and the final decision in favour of partition was brought about more by the attitude of Muslim Officials than even because of the popular backing of the Muslim League. The activities of these officials in the various departments were making for administrative chaos. The communal orgy of last March brought matters to a head. The Congress leaders felt that India must be saved from drifting towards chaos by a quick decision - and that in favour of partition.

* * * * *

Once partition was agreed upon both the parties wanted to separate without delay. But the worst blunder committed by the League leaders was to insist on immediate division of the army, the police and the civil services on communal lines. In the communally surcharged atmosphere the minorities lost confidence in the communally manned administration; the new officers had no time to understand their new responsibilities and to build up contacts with the people. East Punjab was left with three thousand policemen out of a normal force of 17,000 and that at a time when

when the administration was undergoing the greatest stress. It may be said that the Muslim police could have been kept on, but reports had been received that Muslim constable had been infected by the communal virus and that they were planning in certain border districts to walk over to Pakistan with their rifles and other equipments.

They had to be disarmed. The province had a Governor who was an outsider. The new Ministry consisting of a Premier and a Home Minister was formed a day before the new province came into being. The Secretariat of the new Govt. was still in the process of transfer to Simla.

There was thus hardly any Government worth the name in East Punjab when law and order was challenged on an un-precedented scale. But for the fact that Mr. Chandulal Trivedi kept his head and that the Government of India backed him with all its resources chaos would have overwhelmed the new province.

* * * * *

West Punjab, on the other hand, inherited a well-knit administrative system and a well-established Secretariat in Lahore. But the League leaders did not realize that Muslim officials considered themselves the real inheritors of power and that they had their own ideas about running the Pakistan of their dreams. Maddened of by the highly exaggerated reports of happenings in East Punjab published in the Pakistan Press and broadcast by Pakistan Radio, they let loose the forces of destruction on the minorities in West Punjab in a bid to wipe them out.

It is said that at least one of the top League leaders was in conspiracy with them and egged them on to annihilate the minorities, as he believed that to be the only way to make the foundations of Pakistan secure.

Wielding administrative power and having at their command the police and the military as an engine of oppression, these officials committed the worst crimes of butchery

and savagery in our history.

These acts have rudely shaken even Mr. Jinnah who has mourned the fact that these officials by their primitive brutalities have deprived him of the credit of bringing into being the biggest Muslim State in the world" without violence.

* * * * *

Perhaps the tragedy would not have occurred had Sir Evan Jenkins not resisted introduction of martial law. Possibly the toll of human life and the extent of misery would have been less had not General Rees worked up the bogey of Sikhs murdering and killing here, there, and everywhere, to denude West Punjab of armed forces.

The pattern of attack, butchery, arson and loot in most places in West Punjab was the same as at Sheikhupura. A false alarm that a Sikh band headed by horsemen had attacked a locality would be sent to the military. The Local police would impose curfew. The National Muslim Guards would set fire to Hindu and Sikh houses. The people running for life from burning houses would be shot for breaking the curfew. Those trying to escape the town would be butchered by the troops.

When Pandit Nehru and Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan inquired about these tragedies, they found nowhere any proof of any arms of the so-called Sikh bands having been seized or any of their horses falling dead on the field. Fortunately, the plot was discovered by a high military officer of the Indian Army and its mad course was checked in time. Otherwise, Sheikhupura's story would have been repeated in a dozen other towns.

* * * * *

Has the peak passed? The thousands of refugees gathered at places like Okara, Jhang, Ghiniot and over half a million Hindus and Sikhs in Lyallpur and hundreds of other districts do not think so. The spread of the trouble to Ambala division is ominous. But if the Govern-

But if the Governments work sincerely in the cause of peace" further and greater tragedy may be averted.

Largely it depends on the Pakistan Government and people to determine the fate of minorities on both sides.

Anyway, Indian leadership must act with determination to inspire confidence among the people that it will not stand any more nonsense, that the safety and security of the sub-continent is its concern and that it will not let the country drift any further into chaos, whatever the cost and however revolutionary the steps it may have to take.

EXTRACT TAKEN FROM "STATESMAN" FILE,
(*Delhi* 1946. *Edition*)

at the instance of Prof. KIRPAL SINGH
I/C, SIKH HISTORY RESEARCH
DEPARTMENT,
KHALSA COLLEGE, AMRITSAR.

OCTOBER 22: VIOLENCE OF THE BRAVE IN NOAKHALI:

CALCUTTA, Oct. 21: "From what I have seen and heard the day before, I am clearly of the opinion that what ever the Government, Provincial or Central, may are or may not do, every Bengali, male or female, has to defend himself and herself by whatever means he or she can contrive, " says Acharya J.B. Kirpalani, President elect of the Indian National Congress, in a statement to the Press.

"In this connexion", adds Mr. Kirpalani, "I would keep before every Bengali the example of Mr. Rajindra Lal Roy and his family who defied a mob for full two days and fell fighting. Even as a believer in absurd non-violence. I hold that the ^{resistance} ~~residents~~ offered by Mr. Rajindra Lal Roy and family was the nearest approach to non-violence. I pay my tribute to his memory and the memory of all those who have fallen fighting against the lowest elements in society.

Mr. Rajindar Lal Roy, referred by Mr. Kirpalani, was a well known Zamindar of Ram Ganj Area and President of the District Hindu Mahasabha and of the Nawakhali District Bar Association. It was reported that his house was attacked on Oct. 10. Members of the family and villagers who had assembled in the house offered resistance headed by Mr. Roy. They repulsed three successive attacks. It was alleged that the hooligans returned a fourth times armed with guns over powered the defenders, and killed Mr. Roy and members, of his family ^{and} as also other villagers who had taken shelter there.

REFUGEES IN TRIPURA:

There are over six thousand refugees in Agartala town. Capital of Tripura State and Belonia and Sonaimuri.

Contiguous to the British Indian Area are also having a large number of refugees, according to the publicity officer. Tripura State, who in a message dated Oct. 19 said: "Streams of refugees, mostly women and children all ill-clad and mostly without food, are pouring in from Akhaura station. The Tripura Government is taking all possible precautionary measures for internal security and has also started relief operations. A local relief committee formed by the Chief Minister with members drawn from all parties is running three relief centres. More centres will be needed from tomorrow if the influx continues unabated.

"Quite a number of refugees are suffering from fever, dysentery and cold. It is feared that disease in epidemic form may break out. "

The first batch of refugees from Noakhali Distt. arrived at Tinsukia on Oct. 19. The Railway Staff there sent them in special compartments about fifty to Bigoi and hundred to Dibrugarh.

A refugee stated that they originally numbered about 700 consisting of men, women and children and entrained on Thursday morning. Relief workers at Gangasagar station accommodated about 300 of them. There was no room in the Comilla, Akhaura and Agartala relief camps about 100 men went to Gauhati and a certain number were detained at intermediate stations between Lumding and Tinsukia.

It is reported from the Dibrugarh that the Marwari community there had expressed its readiness to arrange for the relief of refugees, accommodating in their houses vacated by the military. ___API.

OCTOBER, 30: RIOTS SPREAD TO MORE BIHAR VILLAGES:

PATNA, Oct. 29: The communal disturbances in Chapra are reported to have spread to more villages adjoining the town. An aerial survey of villages affected

affected so far has been made by the Superintendent of Police, Saran.

The total number of casualties in the district of Saran is estimated at 115 killed and 107 injured.

About 50 people were killed in the village of Paigambarpur, about 18 miles from Chapra. Twelve deaths are reported from the village of Khadaibag.

Stray assaults in the town of Chapra are still being reported, although there is a slight improvement in the situation.

Troops have been brought into control the situation in the district.

Mr. Sri Krishan Sinha, Prime Minister, Bihar, is expected to visit affected villages this afternoon. All the educational institutions in Chapra have been closed for 15 days. The courts have been instructed by the Patna High Court not to hear cases till Nov. 4 if the parties concerned are not ready are present. —API.

law *★*
QUIET IN LUDHIANA:

LAHORE, Oct. 28: No further incident has been reported from Ludhiana State the Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government this afternoon.

Seven persons have been killed and about 20 injured so far in the communal disturbances which broke out on the night of Oct. 24.

The report issued by the Chief Secretary of the Punjab Government yesterday stated: "communal disorders broke out in Ludhiana on the night of 24/25, resulting in one person being killed and one seriously injured.

"On Oct. 25 three more incidents took place, including one of stabbing. Curfew was imposed from the evening of Oct. 25 from 8-30 p.m. to 6 a.m. After the curfew had expired on Oct. 26 there were 17 incidents took place, which resulted in two deaths. Strong police reinforcement have been sent from Lahore and troops in

are standing by." —API

EXTRACT TAKEN FROM STATESMAN FILE

(*Dellu* 1947. *EDITION*)

at the instance of Prf. Kirpal Singh
I/C. Sikh History Research Depatt.

KHALSA COLLEGE, AMRISTAR.

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OCTOBER 20 :

G E N O C I D E

The India League of America recently recommended that UNO's General Assembly should adopt a convention for the prevention and punishment of genocide. This hybrid word, part Greek part Latin, was coined for use in the Nuremberg Trial by Dr. Lemkin, now Adviser on foreign Affairs to the Washington War Department. As the days flowed into weeks and the weeks into months while the leaders of Germany followed each other in the Nuremberg dock, the sinister meaning of the word was ~~relaxed~~ re-written in the blood, and sweat and tears which had flowed from many nations. In 1933, when still a Polish subject, Dr. Lemkin propose-d at a League of Nations Conference of of international jurists that two new dimes, "barbarism" and "vandalism", be introduced into the penal codes of member States- The only result was that the Polish Government recalled him and withdrew his passport. Six years later the agony of his country through German genocide began. The plan for Poland was elucidated by the Fuehrer to Schirach, Leader of the Hitler Youth, and Frank, Governor-General of Poland, shortly after the initial attack. He said: "There should be one master only for the p~~ales~~__the German; two masters side by side cannot and must not exist and therefore all representatives of the Polish intelligentsia are to be exterminated. The sounds cruel but such is the law of life." Himmler later exhorting his SS' said "In Poland, in weather 40 degrees below zero we had to haul away thousands, tens of thousands, hundred of thousands,; we had to have the toughness to sh~~oot~~ thousands of leading Poles." This was genocide.

Genocide does not mean indiscriminate slaughter, but a scientific policy of destroying a race, nation or section of society. The massacre of the Huguenots was genocide, and so was the slow extermination of the Red Indians in North America, as Mr. R.W. Cooper, historian of the Nuremberg Trial points out. The methods used vary, though all are diabolical Hitler's gas-chambers were used to the same end as the opium which the Japanese dispensed so lavishly in China both were for genocide. The idea of race destruction however, was new to international law when included in the Nuremberg Indictment and it should now take its place in the penal codes of UNO's member nations.

If Dr. Lemkin identified and named this fatal bacillus it was Karl Haushofer, the German geopolitician, who contaminated the leaders of his country with the idea of genocide. He influenced them by his propaganda through learned societies, political and military intelligence, the German General Staff and the organizations of German living abroad. His theories supplied much of the new uncouth Nazi vocabulary. Rudolph Hess was one of his adherents long before the formation of the Nazi party, programme were based on Haushoferan geopolitics; but all the lebensraum Haushofer conquered for himself was first a place in a concentration camp, and then the two handfuls of Bavarian soil he clutched as he died after taking arsenic and then hanging himself 18 months ago at the age of 76.

Before these events Hitler had learned all Haushofer could teach him, To Rauchning he said: "We are obliged to depopulate. If you ask me what I mean by depopulation, I mean the removal of entire racial units." In 1939 Streicher the Jew-baiter, published articles in "Der Stürmer", with "the full support of the highest Reich authority" to demand the extinction of the Jewish race. Anti-Semitism, he later told S.S. generals, is exactly

is exactly the same as delousing. During the war, reports of "success" flowed in.

Here is a typical example: "We have liquidated in the last 10 weeks about 55,000 Jews in white Ruthenia. In the territory of Minskland Jewry has been eliminated without endangering the manpower demands: in the preeminently Polish territory of Lida 16,000 Jews, in Klin 3,000 Jews and so forth have been liquidated". The system of "hostages" and the obliteration of whole villages was incorporated in Hitler's genocide—100 killed for each German soldier, and whole community burned in their churches. The death wagons, the huge communal graves from which sometimes the half dead fought their way out, the thousands of lives lost in labour camps, all these were genocide. Dachau, Sachsenhausen, Buchenwald, Mauthausen, Flossenbürg and Ravensbrück these six concentration camps of 1939 grew to over 300 before V-E Day. Each name is a synonym for genocide, the crime newly created in law by the Nuremberg indictment.

Some unfamiliar with the Indian sub-continent, their minds full of perhaps exaggerated accounts of tragic events here, may consider it somewhat ironic that the India League of America should be the source of the convention offered to UNO to combat genocide. But those sponsoring the convention must have been aware of this, and ~~km~~ indeed were possibly influenced by a very proper wish to emphasise before the world that the happenings in their home land can in no way yet be classed as genocide. They said that they believed the disturbances here to be "sporadic and temporary and therefore no genocide in the true sense." They are right. Leaders of both the new Governments did not desire these shameful barbarities against minority groups, have been put to extreme difficulty by them, and are doing all in their power to stop them. The clamities of the last two

last two months have been due to localized emotional upheavals among the people themselves, which have resulted in localized acts of revenge. Some of these acts were planned but none, we are convinced by the ruling personnel in either new dominions. Sir Zafurullah Khan, leader of the Pakistan delegation to the UNO General Assembly, overlooked this fundamental point when impetuously accusing the Indian Government of complicity in "the slaughter of the Muslims." Abominable and degrading as the communal killings have been, they bear hitherto no relation to the scientifically organised and government sponsored crime of genocide.

EXTRACT TAKEN FROM "STATESMAN" FILE
Calcutta Edition, 1946.

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DECEMBER, 27: SIKHS DISOWNS HMG's STATEMENT OF DEC.6:

AMRITSAR, Dec. 24. ____ The Sikhs Pratinidhi Panthic Board, in a resolution adopted at its meeting today, called on all Sikhs "to carry on their struggle until satisfactory provision is made for safeguarding their interests in the future constitution of India."

The resolution ~~stated~~ stated that on June 30, the Secretary of State for India intimated ^SMaster Tara Singh, the Akali leader, that it was not possible for the Cabinet Mission to make any addition to the statement of May 16, or to give any interpretation to it.

"The statement of Dec. 6," the resolution adopted today says, "is not only an interpretation of that statement but makes substantial additions to it."

"The Statement of Dec. 6 has been made to placate the intransigents of the Muslim League and is to the detriment of the minorities, especially the Sikhs."

For these reasons, the Board views with indignation the latest statement of HMG and calls on all Sikhs to carry on their struggle until satisfactory provision is made for safeguarding their interests in the future constitution of India."

Sardar Harnam Singh presided over the Board meeting today.

Sardar Baldev Sing^h, Defence Minister, Central Govt. gave the meeting a gist of ~~his~~ his talks with the British Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet Mission during his recent visit to London.

The meeting deputed Sardar Harnam Singh and some other Sikh leaders to see Mr. Gandhi, and request him to press for adequate safeguards for the Sikhs in the future constitution of India and to fulfil the Congress commitment

commitments in this regards to the Sikh community.

The meeting also deputed some Sikh leaders to meet the members of the All-India Congress Committee in Delhi, when the Committee meets on Jan.5 to discuss the question of safeguarding Sikh interest.

Sardar Baldev Singh is returning to Delhi tonight from Amritsar.

CALCUTTA 29; PUNJAB MUSLIM LEAGUE PLAN FOR PARALLEL GOVERNMENT.

LAHORE, Dec.27__ A " public treasury" will support a "Parallel Government" which the Muslim League is seeking to set up in this Province to administer Muslim affairs.

This step is being taken to stem the feeling of frustration which the Muslim League fears may occur in its rank and file following failure to wrest power in the Punjab.

The "treasury" will be utilized "for nation-building programme," says a resolution passed by the Provincial Muslim League.

A number of taxes and cesses are sought to be imposed by the League on the Muslim population. Important among these is levy, not less than three pies per rupee, on sale bills of Muslim commercial concerns.

Muslim industrial undertakings and commercial establishments, the resolution says, "shall recover one day' salary in a year of their employees" for the "treasury" called the "National Fund."

Muslims employed in the Services or earning wages in non-Muslim concerns are enjoined to contribute one day' earnings in a year.

The share of Muslim League M.L.A.'s is 10% of the monthly allowance.

Muslims who deposit their savings in banks, but do not accept interest in accordance with the Quranic

Quranic injunction, are asked to advise their bankers to credit this income to the "National Fund". It is also hoped to levy some form of death, birth, and wedding duties. The amount to be paid, however, is left to the wish of the individual. This is intended "to replace the existing extravagant un-Islamic social customs." Names of persons who pay these levies will be published in a special "roll of honour".

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